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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1927

JANUARY

Vol. XI No. 121

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire. The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	CHURCH—		
7463	"Let all Men Praise the Lord," Chorale (No. 8 of "Hymn of Praise"), by Mendelssohn (Vertical score)	2	0
7490	"My Song shall be alway Thy Mercy," Duet for Soprano and Tenor (No. 9 of "Hymn of Praise")	2	0
7464	A Selection of Popular Amens, by various Composers (Vertical score)	2	0
	ORGAN—		
7465	"Sleepers, Wake!" Choral, Vol. 7, No. 57, by Bach (Bar by bar)	2	0
7466	Barcarole, from the "Fourth Concerto," by W. Sterndale Bennett (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7467	Lament, by J. Warriner (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO—		
7468	"A Midsummer Phantasy" (Four Descriptive Pieces), by A. Herbert Brewer (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7469	No. 1 of "Two Free Fugues," Op. 54, by H. Farjeon (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7470	"Reflections" (Three Descriptive Pieces), by E. Percy Fletcher (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7471	Caprice (variations) in F minor, by Haydn (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7472	"Liebeslied" (Love's Sorrow), by Kreisler (arr. by Rachmaninoff), (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7473	"The Pianist's First Music Making," Bk. I (for use in conjunction with the "Child's First Steps") by Matthay and Swinstead (Bar by bar), pocket size	7	0
7474	Four Tunes of the Sea, by Norman O'Neill (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7475	Finnish Folk Songs, by Palmgren (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7476	First Tunes at the Piano (13 Pieces on Nursery Rhymes), by Edith Rowland (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	DANCE—		
7477	"Always," Song-waltz, by Irving Berlin (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7478	"Who?" from "Sunny," Vocal One-step, by J. Kern (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7479	"Chinese Moon," Song Fox-trot, by J. Nussbaum (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
7480	"Where the Bee Sucks," by Arne (F: Compass C to F′), pocket size	2	0
7481	"May Dew," by W. Sterndale Bennett (A flat: Compass E to E′)	2	0
7482	"She Seems to Know" (Humorous), by T. C. Sterndale Bennett (D, Compass B, to E′), pocket size	2	0
7483	"The Flower Song," from "Faust," by Gounod (B flat: Compass C to F′)	2	0
7484	"In Native Worth," Tenor Recit. and Air from "The Creation," by Haydn (C: Compass F sharp to A′) pocket size	2	0
7485	"The Sun God," by W. G. James (E minor: Compass A, sharp to E′), pocket size	2	0
7486	"Sanctuary," by Noel Johnson (A flat: Compass B, to E′), pocket size	2	0
7487	"All the Fun of the Fair," by Easthope Martin (E minor: Compass D to D′), pocket size	2	0
7488	"Old Chap," by M. Rosse (F: Compass C to F′), pocket size	2	0
7489	"The Water Mill," by R. Vaughan Williams (C: Compass C to D′)	2	0

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

	BELLES LETTRES—		
6473-6476	"On Everything," by Hilaire Belloc, 4 vols.	per vol.	3 3
6827-6833	"Side Walk Studies," by Henry Austin Dobson, LL.D., 7 vols.	per vol.	2 9
	BIOGRAPHY—		
7162-7169	"Twenty Five Years," by Viscount Grey of Falloden, K.G., 8 vols.	per vol.	8 6
	FICTION—		
7245-7246	"The Tale of Chloe," by George Meredith, 2 vols.	per vol.	3 3
7010	"The Barbens of Barben Lacy" (from Quinney's Adventures), by Horace Annesley Vachell		3 3
7007	"Possessed" and "The Ming Vase" (from Quinney's Adventures), by Horace Annesley Vachell		3 3
7009	"A Nocturnal Visitor" and "A Tug of War" (from Quinney's Adventures), by Horace Annesley Vachell		3 3
7006	"Duds" and "The D'Avenant Mystery" (from Quinney's Adventures), by Horace Annesley Vachell		3 3
7185	"The Criminal," by J. D. Beresford; "Perez," by W. L. George; "Mrs Adis," by Sheila Kaye-Smith (from Georgian Stories, 1922)		3 3
7191	"A Source of Irritation," by Stacy Aumonier; "The Tryst," by Algernon Blackwood (from Georgian Stories, 1922)		3 0
6969	"Tomaso's Fortune; "Galossa-A-L" and "The End of the Mooroo," by H. Seton Merriman		2 9
6971	"On the Rocks"; "The Tale of a Scorpion"; and "In a Caravan" (from Tomaso's Fortune and Other Stories), by H. Seton Merriman		3 0
	HISTORY—		
6910-6918	"History of Herodotus," by G. C. Macaulay, M.A., 9 vols.	per vol.	9 3

(Continued on page 3 of Cover)

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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EMBOSSED PUBLICATIONS



LAST month we briefly described the recent work of the Technical and Research Committee of the National Institute for the Blind. The present article deals with the work of the Institute's Publications Committee since its formation—or rather re-formation—in July, 1924.

As we have frequently discussed in these pages many of the problems confronting those who aim at providing the blind all over the English-speaking world with an adequate supply of embossed books and periodicals, readers of *The Beacon* will already possess a fair idea of the nature and scope of the work of the Publications Committee. It may be as well, however, to quote the Committee's terms of reference. These are :—

(a) Selection of books, pamphlets, etc., to be reproduced in Braille, Moon and letterpress: such advice to include reference to number and size of volumes, size of editions, size of Braille characters, whether interlined or interpointed, grade of Braille, etc.

(b) Selection of music to be reproduced in Braille and letterpress.

(c) Periodicals, newspapers, etc., published by the Institute.

(d) Selection of maps, diagrams, etc.

(e) Revision of the catalogue of Braille and Moon literature.

(f) Any other matter not included in the foregoing which may be referred to the Publications Committee by the Standing Committee or by the Publications Committee to the Standing Committee.

The members of the Publications Committee are as follows ;—

Miss L. Bell, Rev. Canon Bolam, F.R.H.S., Miss Garaway, Mr. T. Holt, Mr. A. J. W. Kitchin, C.I.E., Mr. W. P. Merrick, Mr. J. Mulhall, B.L., J.P., Sir Michael O'Dwyer, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I. (Chairman), Miss O. Prince, Mr. W. S. Talbot, C.I.E., Captain E. B. B. Towse, V.C., C.B.E., Mr. T. H. Tylor, M.A., B.C.L.

The Committee meets every quarter, and is assisted in its work by a Music Sub-Committee meeting every month and consisting of five members of the Institute's staff, and by two Consultative Committees, composed as follows:

Literature—Miss P. Monk, M.A., Mr. G. C. Brown, M.A., Mr. C. F. Clay, M.A., Mr. Arthur R. Hinks, Sir Ernest Hodder-Williams, C.V.O., Mr. Roger Ingpen, ProfessorGilbert Murray,M.A., LL.D., Sir John Murray, Sir Arthur Thomas Quiller-Couch, M.A., Litt.D., F.R.S.L., Mr. J. C. Squire, Sir J. J. Thomson, LL.D.

Music—Mr. Alfred Abdey, Mus. Doc., F.R.C.O., Mr. Ernest Fowles, F.R.A.M., Mr. Alfred Hollins, Mus.Doc., F.R.C.O., Mr. Stewart Macpherson, F.R.A.M., Mr. C. W. Pearce, M.A., Mus. Doc. (Cantab.) F.R.C.O., Sir Landon Ronald, F.R.A.M., F.R.C.M., F.G.S.M., Mr. John Warriner, Mus. Doc., F.T.C.L., Mr. William Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac. (Oxon.), Mr. John E. West, F.R.A.M., F.R.C.O.

Thus, it will be seen, the Publications Committee has the assistance, when needed, of two very distinguished bodies, representative of contemporary letters and music at their best.

To take, one by one, the many questions which have come before the Publications Committee during the last two years would be to fill several issues of *The Beacon*. So all we can do here is to summarise the practical results of the Committee's work under the following convenient group headings :—

1. Braille production.
2. Moon production.
3. Prices.
4. Periodicals.
5. Catalogues.
6. Music.
7. Selection of Books.

1. Braille Production.

The first problems which the Committee set itself to tackle were those incident on production. At first thought it might appear that these were purely financial problems; but, in the production of embossed literature from charitable funds and the utilising of blind labour, there are many other aspects to be considered, and a report on the whole subject had to cover a vast amount of ground. For instance, it was found that the blind stereotypers produced stereotyped plates ready for printing at a quicker rate, proportionately, than the rate of printing and binding by the then-established printing and binding departments. Again, the report revealed that there was an accumulation of books and music plates with which the printing and binding departments were faced in addition to the normal daily output of new books and current periodicals. Another problem was the adjustment of prices and size to demand—a problem affected by innumerable factors. However, without dwelling on the difficulties, it is enough here to say, that as a result of most careful and long examination, the cost of running the whole Publication Department at full pressure, so as to produce the maximum number of publications in the minimum amount of time, was ascertained, and eventually the allocation of a specified sum per annum to meet the expense of such maximum production was obtained. The stereotyping, printing, binding and publishing departments of the Institute are now, accordingly, running at full strength and producing a constant supply of Braille literature of all kinds.

2. Moon Productions.

This question was equally intricate and equally well thrashed out. The most obvious difference between Moon and Braille production is the nature and extent of the demand. Readers of Moon are generally people who lose their sight in late adult life or old age, and there are more Moon readers in America than in England: these two facts govern the nature of the supply. The extent of the demand is difficult to estimate. If an edition of a classical work or of a popular novel is published in Braille, it is presumed that in no extended period the edition will be exhausted. But, while the economic factors governing the size of an edition of either a Braille or a Moon book are practically similar, the demand is assuredly not so: whereas a Braille edition is always in demand by the steadily-growing number of Braille readers, a Moon edition may linger until it becomes too venerable for sale, and tie up a deal of metal in much needed space. So the main result of the report on Moon Production was the initiation of the limited edition. Certain works were selected for possible publication in Moon type. These were widely advertised amongst Moon customers, and definite orders for each work requested before that work was put in hand. As soon as the economic minimum of orders was received, each work was begun, the number of copies ordered printed, and the type distributed. This arrangement has had excellent results, many new works having been issued in Moon. The broad principle now adopted in Moon production is that works of a more ephemeral nature are printed from type which is afterwards distributed, while stereotyped plates are kept of books of a more classical nature.

3. Prices.

Both reports—on Braille and on Moon production—had much to say about prices. The prices of embossed literature compared with those of ordinary literature appear to be abnormally high, but recent innovations—the fruit of such reports as those with which we are dealing—have considerably lowered the cost of production. "Bring down prices" should be a mania with any body or committee dealing with embossed publications, and it must be admitted that the Institute's Publications Committee have achieved some really fine results in this direction. "Standardisation" in many a factory has been the axe to lop off the mounting price, and "standardisation" is serving the blind reader well. Firstly, the cost of all Braille and Moon books published by the Institute was definitely fixed, and it is illuminating to compare it with the American cost price, for instance. Then a definite discount to home purchasers was allowed, namely, two-thirds the cost price, and to render division easy, odd pence were generously eliminated. Finally, the discounts were extended to all purchasers of Braille or Moon books throughout the British Empire; so that now the Institute's Braille and Moon catalogues are a boon, offering equally brilliant prospects, to the blind man in Brixton and the blind man in Saskatchewan.

The Council of the Institute would, we believe, dearly like to extend similar privileges to the blind all over the world, but as yet this has not been found practicable. Sufficient here to say that the fruit of standardisation is sound fruit, full of seed for the future.

4. Periodicals.

The Institute publishes nine periodicals in Braille and Moon, including two newspapers, all of which are prepared, edited, stereotyped and printed at the Institute, apart from other journals printed to order and over which the Publications Committee has no authority. The Committee have recognised from their first meeting that four principles should rule their policy with reference to periodical literature, namely, that prices should be brought down, scope extended, circulation pushed and contents kept up-to-date. Almost immediately, down came the Committee's axe on prices—and the annual subscriptions to "Progress," the "School Magazine," the "Musical Magazine," "Channels of Blessing," and "Moon Magazine" were substantially reduced.

Contrariwise, up came the size! A review of new musical publications was issued as a supplement to the "Musical Magazine"; the "Braille Mail" and the "Literary Journal" were increased in size; a supplement of American news was added to the "Moon Newspaper" and a supplement of Helps to Sunday School Teachers to "Channels of Blessing."

At the same time, the circulations of all magazines have increased owing to extensive publicity, while the contents march with the times.

In addition, the Committee's activities in this direction are illustrated by the re-issue of the "Massage Journal," and by their close and constant examination into the subject of issuing a weekly programme in Braille of the wireless programmes and the further increase in size of the "Braille Mail." An innovation in connection with the "Mail" has met with wide approval, namely, the grouping of the news under separate headings, instead of its presentment day-by-day.

5. Catalogues.

One of the means by which the Committee has successfully solved many difficult problems has been the wide publicity given to new publications. It was recognised that, although an ink-print catalogue, with monthly supplements, was issued every year, catalogues in embossed type were the best means of bringing the attention of the blind reader to new publications. Again many difficulties were encountered, but as a result of the Committee's investigations and findings, the issue of a complete Music catalogue in sections was begun, and this is now nearly completed. This step forward was followed by the issue of a Braille catalogue of books available in the Students' Library and of those available in the Massage Library, and the publication of a catalogue of Moon books in Moon type. Finally, a supplement, printed in Braille and giving particulars of all new publications, of additions to the two special libraries named, and to the National Library for the Blind, together with particulars of new apparatus, new games, etc., is now given away each month with every periodical published by the Institute. The ink-print catalogue has also been improved by the introduction of cross-references to the fiction and poetry sections and brief descriptions of new works listed in the monthly supplementary catalogues. At the same time, the catalogue is now being overhauled so that books no longer in request for one reason or another may be withdrawn and the complete stock of volumes on the Institute's shelves brought strictly up-to-date.

6. Music.

When the Committee was first formed, it was faced with a difficult problem which has already been briefly mentioned—that is, the accumulation of plates of works stereotyped but not printed and published. A great number of music plates especially awaited action. The position to-day is that, not only have all the accumulated music plates been utilised, and the sheet music and volumes printed therefrom been published, but a regular list of new music publications is issued month by month, the selection being made by the special Music Sub-Committee in consultation with the distinguished musicians named above. The three-quarters discount allowed on cost price of music to purchasers resident in the British Isles has been extended to purchasers resident throughout the British Empire, and the minimum price of music reduced from 1/- to 6d. As a result of these improved conditions, the blind musician now has at his command a constant supply of the best music at a cheap price, and is provided with a complete Braille catalogue of all Braille music, and supplementary catalogues in Braille of additional items are issued with each number of the "Braille Musical Magazine." This result is indeed praiseworthy.

It is impossible to deal with the last division of the Committee's work—the selection of Books—in a paragraph, so we propose next month to devote to this subject a complete article in which we shall touch upon some further phases of the work of the Institute's Publications Committee.

The Editor.

WIRELESS LICENCES FOR THE BLIND

CAPTAIN IAN FRASER, C.B.E., M.P., has kindly sent us the following letter, which he has received from the Assistant Postmaster-General :—

His Majesty's Postmaster-General.
G.P.O.
15th December, 1926.

My dear Fraser,

The Postmaster-General has asked me to reply to your question asking whether, in the event of the Wireless Telegraphy (Blind Persons Facilities) Bill receiving the Royal Assent to-day, he could take any action to help blind people to meet certain difficulties arising out of the intermediate period between the First Reading of the Bill and the present time. After the Royal Assent has been given, instructions will be issued to Postmasters that free licences may be issued on and after the 1st January, 1927, to blind persons on production of the requisite certificate. We could not issue a free licence until the certificate can be produced ; but if there should be a few weeks' delay in issuing certificates we should of course take no legal action against a blind person who was prevented through this delay from obtaining a free licence.

Further, if the licence is in renewal of a licence which expired before the end of the current year, the free licence will be dated back to the proper date of renewal and 10d. a month will be collected for the period of use without a licence in 1926. The free licence will then expire at the end of twelve months from the proper date of renewal and will itself be renewable, on production of a certificate, on the anniversary of the proper date of renewal. For instance, if the original licence expired on the 31st October, the applicant will be required to pay 1/8 (two tenpences) and the free licence will be made to expire on the 31st October, 1927.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) WOLMER.

Referring to this letter, Captain Fraser says :

I am sure that blind people throughout the country and all those who are especially interested in their welfare, will be grateful to Parliament for the Act giving free wireless licences to the blind, and to the Postmaster-General for the concession he makes in this letter. Without the concession a blind person whose licence, for example, expired on 30th November would have had to pay the full 10/- for the period of fifteen days between the expiry of his licence and December 15th, when the Bill received the Royal Assent. This would have been a real hardship.

In order to obtain a free licence a blind person should make application in person or in writing to the Council of the County or County Borough in whose area he lives for a certificate stating that he or she is a registered blind person. When this certificate has been received—which will not be for a few weeks—the blind person should present it to his or her local Post Office, when a free licence will be issued. Practically all blind persons are already registered in the books of the local authorities, but those who are not should forthwith make application for consideration of their names.

It is important to note that in no case should application be made to a local authority in a place where a blind person happens to be temporarily residing, but only to the authority in the area in which his or her home is situated.

In the Administrative County of London, application for a certificate should be made to the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association for the Blind, Denison House, 296 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W., who act as the agent of the London County Council in registration matters.

DESTINY

I cannot think, as through this chequered life I go,
That all things beautiful were but designed to be
The sportive pastime of a master mind, who, though
Responsible for all created things, could see
No permanence in all that He essayed. I know
This cannot be: beyond the dark fleeting clouds, He
Who has fashioned us by craft superb, will show
That life for us holds deep significance ; then we
One day will understand the mystery, and so
Be satisfied. Meantime, I have no fear for thee
And me. All will be well ; there is no hidden foe
Waiting in some sequestered hiding place for me,
Anxious but to destroy the seed that God did sow.
Doubt not the welcome dawn breaks in eternity.

BEN PURSE.

12th December, 1926.

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

JAMES DAWBER, Mus. Bac. (Cantab.)



IT is indeed an honour to be asked to write a short account of the career of so excellent a musician and so public-spirited a citizen as Mr. James Dawber, of Wigan.

I accede with all the more pleasure because it has not only been my privilege for many years to count him amongst my most esteemed friends, but because (as a former resident of Liverpool) I can speak intimately of the district in which Mr. Dawber has lived and worked, and I have myself known most of the people and places mentioned in the following notes.

In a recent issue of *The Wigan Examiner*, under the caption "Local Celebrities," a contributor writes :—

> "James Dawber, musician to his finger-tips, most lovable and homely of companions, most honourable of citizens, is seventy-five years of age, sixty-five of which have been spent in an enveloping darkness which has neither warped his spirit nor dimmed his cheery optimism. May he feel the caress of the sunshine, the freshness of the wind on his cheek, the delights of good company; and may he give us of his music and cheer for many, many years to come."

Born on the 18th September, 1851, he was, alas, only to enjoy the blessing of sight during the early days of childhood, for an accident which befel him at the age of seven unhappily culminated three years later in total loss of vision.

This was in 1861, seven years before the establishment of the British and Foreign Blind Association (now the National Institute for the Blind), and consequently some years before the beneficent work initiated by the late Dr. T. R. Armitage had begun to make itself felt in the educational world of the blind in this country—a fact which should be borne in mind in taking measure of the achievements of so remarkable a man as the subject of this sketch.

As a boy of thirteen, in August, 1864, he was elected a pupil at Henshaw's Blind Institution, Old Trafford, Manchester, where he remained till December, 1869.

Returning to his native town in 1870, a youth of nineteen, he was fortunate enough to be placed under the musical tutorship of Mr. (afterwards Sir) Walter Parratt, then organist at the Parish Church. Wigan "Old Church" is a venerable fourteenth century pile, and stands (like St. Paul's Cathedral) on the site of a Pagan temple built in the days of the Roman occupation, and therefore on ground which has practically been for ever consecrate. It has always been famous for its music, and amongst the many distinguished musicians who have succeeded each other there in recent years have been Sir Walter Parratt, late organist of the Chapel Royal, Windsor, and the present organists of Ripon Cathedral (Dr. C. H. Moody), and York Minster (Dr. E. C. Bairstow).

In 1878 Mr. Dawber had made such progress with his musical studies that he not only secured the degree of Bachelor of Music at Cambridge University, but was placed second out of seven in order of merit, the other men being, of course, fully sighted. This feat is all the more remarkable because of the fact that in those early days there were practically no text-books, and very little of the music then in Braille type could have been of any service to him. Indeed, Braille music itself was, as yet, at a very primitive stage of its development.

In the same year Mr. Dawber, now 27 years of age, decided to join the Masonic fraternity, and, applying himself with characteristic assiduity to his Masonic duties, he gradually rose in office until he was nominated for "Provincial Honours," when the second Lord Lathom, then Grand Master of the Province of West Lancashire, conferred upon him the rank of Provincial Grand Organist.

A few years later, having thoroughly established himself in his native town as an organist and teacher of music, he turned his attention to the subject of examinations in the rudiments of music, both theoretical and practical. He introduced to Wigan and district the "Local Centre" Examinations of Trinity College of Music, London, and became the recognised local secretary of that Institution. This was in the days when Sir Julius Benedict, composer of

the well-known opera " The Lily of Killarney," was at the height of his popularity. Sir Julius, then conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society, gave the new enterprise the benefit of his personal support by attending to distribute the prizes to successful candidates for the newly-established Wigan " Centre."

Having thus dealt with a local problem, Mr. Dawber's imagination proceeded to conceive a scheme, on almost national lines, for the benefit not only of the musical profession, but of the general community, which culminated in the formation of the Incorporated Society of Musicians. Indeed, he is familiarly spoken of in musical circles as the " father of the I.S.M."

In the official records of this Society (established in 1882 and incorporated in 1892), now one of the most important and representative body of musicians in this country, there appears the following statement :—

> " To Mr. James Dawber, Mus. Bac. (Cantab.), of Wigan, belongs the credit of taking the initiative towards forming an Association which should confederate the separate units of the musical profession into a responsible body for the purpose of protecting their interests and managing their own affairs."

In the course of its 44 years' development this Society has exerted an extremely beneficial influence in musical matters. Indeed, it would not be possible to assess the infinitely varied reforms, both social and musical, which it has been able to carry into effect for the benefit of the musical profession, and of the community at large. It has always taken up a strong attitude in regard to the question of *bona-fide* examinations in music ; in the repression of the unqualified teacher, the bogus " College " and the quack " Examiner," and in securing public recognition of the dignity of the Art of Music and of all who render faithful service therein.

Mr. Dawber is still an active and honoured member, attending the Society's local meetings and annual conferences with unabated zeal.

As an organist of over 40 years' experience, he has held appointments at St. Paul's Church, and at Hope Street Congregational Church, Wigan, as well as at the Baptist Church, Southport. He was also organist at the Parish Church of Sefton, near Liverpool, a place of outstanding antiquarian interest, and famous, amongst other things, for its magnificent old wood-carvings. To this church the late Dr. A. L. Peace, while organist of St. George's Hall, Liverpool, would often make a Sunday afternoon pilgrimage in order to revel in its ancientry and beauty, frequently remaining afterwards for Evensong, and in its quiet churchyard his mortal remains were laid to rest in 1913.

Hitherto we have rather thought of Mr. Dawber as a blind musician " holding his own " (and so very worthily) amongst his sighted professional brethren. But he has also rendered noteworthy service to the sightless. He was a member of the committee of experts appointed by the National Institute to revise the entire system of Braille music, and to compile the " Key to the Braille Music Notation, 1922." His profound knowledge, and his wide experience as a teacher, were of great value in the long-drawn-out deliberations (extending over a period of ten years) of this responsible body. We, his colleagues on that Revision Committee, knew well how to appreciate his sound, mature judgment, as well as his innate sense of what was practicable and of real value in the bewildering maze of " recommendations " which came pouring in from all quarters for our consideration.

Amid all the claims of a busy life, Mr. Dawber has never permitted himself to neglect those of friendship and of home. Gifted with a sense of humour which expresses itself in many a quaint and whimsical utterance, he is the life of a convivial party, and is also a most entertaining after-dinner speaker.

He finds intense happiness in home, in companionship, and in all the innocent pleasures of life. It has been said of him that he loves nothing better than to sit in the sun at Old Trafford and " listen in " to a County match ; which, by the way, reminds me that three of his sons (he has five sons and two daughters) are excellent cricketers. His youngest son is at sea, qualifying for a Naval Captain's certificate ; while his eldest, Mr. Harold Dawber, F.R.C.O., A.R.M.C.M., has distinguished himself in his father's profession, being organist at St. George's Church, Stockport (a prominent appointment), and choirmaster to the Hallé Society of Manchester, in which latter office he has recently come into considerable prominence.

Is it possible, then, to imagine a life of fuller service than that of this noble-minded musician

and citizen? Still the enthusiast, with a brain as alert as ever, and a heart brimming over with brotherly love to everyone, may he long be spared to us. Here indeed is a man who has ever expressed his love to his Creator with all his heart, with all his understanding, with all his soul, and with all his strength, and who throughout a life which has already considerably outspanned the allotted three score years and ten, has continually shown by his actions that he has lôved his neighbour as himself.

Surely it has not been given to many men to achieve so much in the way of practical helpfulness to both the blind *and* the seeing, along the lines of musical and social endeavour.

Such life-long and beneficent work can never be forgotten by his fellow-musicians, whether sighted or blind. May the knowledge of this bring him that happiness which can only be experienced by those who, endowed by God with special talents, have used them to the full in His service, and to the lasting benefit of their brethren.

EDWARD WATSON.

NOT BESTOWED IN VAIN

A RECENT subscription to the funds of the National Institute for the Blind was accompanied by a letter of so sympathetic a nature that we select a passage for publication.

Having enumerated various charities to which the writer proposed to send donations, he went on to say :—

"I was influenced in making the foregoing selection by the circumstance that my beloved wife used to give to them. Great were her self-denial and cheerful self-sacrifice for others. Her sweet smile when she went to give alms to the poor was as pleasing to the aged as the gifts themselves. Her personal charm is missing, and will be missed; but I shall try until I go to her in the better land, to follow her footprints as nearly as I can, in remembering the poor; and I hope and trust that these donations, coupled with the friendly care of those who wait upon the weak in the said institutions may help in a measure, however small, to relieve and comfort some of the many who are shipwrecked, or destitute, or helpless, or sick, or maimed, or lame, or blind. If so, this will not have been bestowed in vain."

MARGINAL REFERENCES IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

THE opinion of readers is invited on a suggestion put forward by a correspondent as follows :—

"Whilst the growing demand for the Holy Scriptures has been well supplied, there is lacking in all the editions one important feature—the marginal references—without which those who really study the Bible are severely handicapped. These could not be introduced into Braille Bibles as they appear in the printed version, but the difficulty might perhaps be overcome by giving the references in separate volumes. Briefly, I would suggest that one book (say St. John) should be indicated at the top of a page, with its chapter and the number of each verse, with all the references pertaining to the verse, but ignoring the particular phrase in the verse, to save confusion. When once these volumes were obtained they could be used with any past, present or future editions of the Bible."

As it is thought that the production of such reference books might be useful to many people, we ask our readers to write to us on the subject.

MR. E. D. MACGREGOR is no longer officially connected with the welfare of the blind, as we understand that he has been transferred to another department of the Ministry of Health. His place has been taken by Mr. F. R. Lovett, M.B.E.

On Thursday, November 25th, a dinner took place at the Athenæum Club, London, in honour of Mr. Macgregor, at which the Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts spoke of the esteem in which their guest was universally held. Replying, Mr. Macgregor spoke of the growth of service and of finance in the blind world through the advent of central control, and said how greatly he had enjoyed his nine years' work for the blind.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

AS a result of the appeal for wireless sets and headphones for blind people, the following have been received up to December 13th: 238 crystal sets and 111 headphones. The following have been distributed: 362 sets and 544 headphones.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

CLASSICS.

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
Augustus.	Exploits	1
Paterculus.	Letters	1
Suetonius.	Passages from	1
	ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE.	
Moxon, T. B.	Practical Banking	2
	LAW.	
Topham, A. F.	New Law of Real Property ..	7
	LOGIC.	
Creighton, J. E.	Introductory Logic	7
	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Belloc, Hilaire.	The Historic Thames	3
	MODERN LANGUAGES.	
Boileau.	L'Art Poétique	1
Dumas, A.	Henry III	2
Dumas, A.	Pages Choisies	2
	PHILOSOPHY.	
Jones, A. J.	Doré Lectures	1
Troward, T.	Rudolf Eucken	1
	POETRY AND DRAMA.	
Barrie, J. M.	Three Short Plays	1
	THEOLOGY AND RELIGION.	
Manning Foster, A. E.	Anglo-Catholicism	1

BASKET-MAKING EXAMINATION

UNDER the auspices of the Worshipful Company of Basket-Makers, a Basket-Making Examination was held at the Girdlers' Hall on November 8th.

Certificates of merit and money prizes were, as usual, competed for in the various sections for the best specimens submitted.

In the section devoted to semi-sighted journeymen, certificates were awarded to twenty-nine entrants, of whom eight received money prizes. Forty blind journeymen received certificates, and eight of these were awarded money prizes. In the section devoted to semi-sighted apprentices, forty competitors were successful in obtaining certificates, of whom two received money prizes. Thirty-five blind apprentices were awarded certificates, and two of these obtained money prizes.

The names of the prize winners are as follows :—

Semi-sighted Journeymen : John Hills, William Morant, Frank Godden, Charles William Pavier (prizes in two classes of work), Robert Day and Reginald Bridger.

Blind Journeymen : John Connolly, S. F. Bourton, T. J. Wells (prizes in two classes), John Drake, William Cook, John Thompson, Albert Critchley.

Semi-sighted Apprentices : William Scrimgeour, Robert Cartwright.

Blind Apprentices : William Bracebridge, Harry Thompson.

GUILD OF BLIND GARDENERS

THE Guild of Blind Gardeners was founded in 1919 by Mrs. Adolphus Duncombe; it is registered under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, and affiliated to the National Institute for the Blind. The founder, who is herself blind, had realised that gardening could be carried out successfully by the blind, and that the occupation would afford them considerable interest and enjoyment.

The Guild had for its object the instruction in gardening, both practical and theoretical, of children in blind and myopic schools; and at the present time eleven schools, both London County Council and Voluntary, are receiving instruction from the Guild's certified lady gardeners. Considerable progress has been made since its inception, and it has been proved beyond a doubt that a great amount of happiness and enjoyment have been derived from this open-air work; besides its practical use to the children in after life, their physical condition has, in many cases, improved.

In addition to work in the schools, the Guild also enrols members for a registration fee of 1/-, both home blind working and amateur gardeners, who at present number over 70. Members are supplied by the Guild with seeds, tools and other requirements at reduced prices, and skilled advice is also given when required.

Arrangements are made annually to permit both the schools and registered members to show exhibits at the following shows at which prizes are awarded by the Guild and the societies, viz. :—

The Royal Horticultural Society's Show, Chelsea ;

The National Rose Society's Show, Regent's Park ;

The North of England Horticultural Society's Show, Harrogate.

Her Majesty the Queen graciously visited the exhibits at two of these Shows this year, and showed considerable interest in the same.

Any further information as to the Guild's work can be obtained from the Secretary, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.

"LABOUR is the human element which makes the fruitful seasons of the earth useful to men."—("My Life and Work": Henry Ford and Samuel Crowther.)

BRAILLE MUSIC NOTATION



IT is a pleasure to be able to announce that Messrs. Novello & Co., 160 Wardour Street, London, W.1, have just issued a letterpress edition of Mr. Edward Watson's new Primer entitled "Elementary Lessons and Exercises in Braille Music Notation," price 2/6.

This is a letterpress replica of the new Students' Manual which the National Institute hopes to issue in Braille type within the next few months, and it completes the set of two text-books necessary fully to expound the principles and practice of modern Braille music, from the rudiments to their highest development—*i.e.*, from the setting down of a simple melody to that of a complicated full orchestral score.

The second of these text-books, the "Key to Braille Music Notation, 1922," necessarily appeared first in actual publication, and, like the primer, is published in letterpress by Messrs. Novello, and in Braille type by the National Institute. The price of each work, whether in Braille or letterpress, is 2/6, a special price fixed by the Standing Committee of the Institute to enable all to purchase—a price far below the cost of production.

The *raison d'etre* of Mr. Watson's Primer is so clearly set forth in his Preface to the "Elementary Lessons" that we feel we cannot do better than make the following excerpt therefrom, thus permitting the author himself to explain :—

"During the compilation of the 'Key to "Braille Music Notation, 1922,' by the Braille "Music Revision Committee appointed by the "National Institute for the Blind, it was found "impossible, for many reasons, to arrange it in "the form of a 'Tutor,' either in the Braille "type edition, published by the Institute, or in "the letterpress copy issued by Messrs. "Novello & Co. Therefore, as the only "'sighted' member of the Revision Com-"mittee, I was asked by my colleagues if I "would undertake the task, especially as 21 "years earlier I had compiled the first complete "exposition of the Braille Musical System, a "Manual which had been in use until the "recent revision had rendered it necessary "either to withdraw it, or to bring it into line "with the new 'Key.' Nothing could have "given me greater pleasure than to accede, "especially as the Committee desired me to "retain the style characteristic of my former "book, *i.e.*, that of a '*Course of Lessons*' for "the combined use of Student and Teacher. "At the same time I was instructed to design "it as an Introduction to the Companion "volume of the 1922 'Key': it was to be a "'*Primer*' leading up to that more compre-"hensive and encyclopædic work.

"Of my own equipment for so responsible "a task, the Revision Committee felt that my "previous experience as Senior Music-Master "at one of the great English Schools for the "Blind—that at Liverpool—followed by that "extensive outlook which can, perhaps, be "gained only at the National Institute itself, "placed me—as a '*sighted*' musician—in a "somewhat privileged position. At all events, "I had had over 30 years' acquaintance with "Braille musical methods, and was conversant "with recent developments: so my duty "seemed clear.

"The style adopted is that of a Teacher "*actually engaged in giving the lesson.* It is confi-"dently hoped that Teachers will find this "specially helpful, as suggesting a thoroughly "practical, and, at the same time, a complete, "systematic course of instruction in a subject "requiring patient, methodic elucidation.

"The Braille-type edition (published by the "National Institute) for the special use of "blind students, corresponds as far as possible "with the order of 'Lessons,' numbering of "paragraphs, etc., as set out in this, the letter-"press copy, in order that whether the Teacher "be sighted or sightless, he and his blind pupil "may use their respective copies *together* at the "lesson. The copious indexing is designed to "facilitate joint reference to both editions."

Mr. Watson concludes his prefatory remarks thus :—

"In the final paragraph of the Preface to my "1901 'Primer' I concluded by saying 'My "hope is that these Lessons may help to pre-"pare the way for the immense amount of "work *yet to be begun* in the cause of the "education of the blind in music, that art to "which so many of our sightless brethren "instinctively turn for almost their only solace."

Our readers are asked to draw the attention of all who are interested in the musical education of the blind to the fact that the National Institute has now done all that is possible to develop the wonderful musical system invented by Louis Braille in 1829, and to place within the reach of students and teachers text-books explaining the latest and most approved methods,

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT



HE Sixth Annual Report of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind to the Minister of Health is, as usual, full of interesting facts and statistics. As previously, the Committee was constituted so as to afford representation to County and County Borough Councils, Boards of Guardians and Voluntary Agencies for the Blind, with the addition of representatives of organised blind workers.

The opening paragraphs of the Report deal with the application of the Blind Persons Act, and further progress in carrying out its provisions is reported. Details, such as the number of blind persons in receipt of Old Age Pensions ; schemes submitted by local authorities under Section 2 of the Act ; grants paid by the Ministry of Health in respect of services provided for the welfare of the blind, etc., are to be found in a review of the Ministry of Health Report, which appeared in our October issue.

We therefore pass on to the paragraph headed " Prevention of Blindness." Readers will recall that in their last Report the previous Committee recommended that in connection with any amendment of the Blind Persons Act an opportunity should be taken of giving local authorities general powers, subject to the approval of the Minister of Health, to take such steps as might seem desirable for the prevention of blindness in their area. Under the Public Health Act, 1925, which came into force last September, such powers have now been conferred upon local authorities other than the London County Council.

Such powers are permissive, and may be exercised by Urban and Rural District Councils, as well as by County and County Borough Councils. The voluntary agencies for the blind have been carrying on a valuable work, by propaganda and otherwise, for the prevention of blindness, and the Committee regard it as a matter for satisfaction that it will now be possible for the local authorities to assist and supplement this work. The Committee are proposing to consider at an early date a scheme of prevention which they hope will be of some assistance to local authorities in taking action under this provision.

Appended to the Report are tabular statements which indicate the number and classification of the blind in England and Wales as on the 31st March, 1925. From these it is seen that the gross total of the blind population was 42,140, and a comparison with previous returns is given, as follows :—

Date of Return	Blind Population	Ratio to General Population
1919	25,840	1 : 1,396
1920	30,785	1 : 1,172
1921	34,894	1 : 1,080
1923	36,518	1 : 1,037
1925	42,140	1 : 911

It is surmised that the notable increase in the number of the registered blind in the two years between 1923 and 1925 is due to better registration. " It is perhaps of some importance that the average expectation of life of the general population is stated to have improved. Consequently, there is likely to be more ordinary senile blindness, and, in fact, much the greater part of the increase is found in the age periods over 50. The natural increase of the general population for the intercensal period 1911-1921 was 1,815,798 representing 5 per cent. of the population in 1911. It would seem, therefore, that without any alteration in the present rate of incidence of blindness, there will be a natural increase in the blind population of approximately 1,800 every ten years."

Of the total increase of 5,622 during the years 1923-25, it is found that in the 50-60 age group there has been an increase of over 1,042, in the 60-70 age group an increase of 1,609, and in the over 70 age group an increase of 1,739, making a total increase of 4,390 of persons over 50 years of age. In the age groups up to 21, there were in 1923 a total of 4,521 persons, while in 1925 there were 4,659, an increase of 138 only.

The operation of the Blind Persons Act has led, therefore, to the discovery of a large number of blind persons, hitherto unknown, whose blindness has, for the most part, occurred late in life.

Forty-seven per cent. of the general population are males, but in the blind population

51 per cent. are of this sex, indicating that blindness is slightly more prevalent among men than women, probably because the former are subject to greater risks in industry.

Table II shows the distribution of the blind according to age-periods in the several Counties' Association areas. From a study of this table is gleaned the fact that the greatest longevity among the blind is found in the Western and Eastern Counties. The returns as to the ages at which blindness occurred are stated to be far more satisfactory than perviously, "unknowns" forming just over 10 per cent., as compared with 20 per cent. in 1923. Statistics show that, of the present blind population, the largest proportion became blind in the first year of life, and the next largest proportion between 50 and 60 and 60 and 70.

A satisfactory increase in the number of persons undergoing training is reported, and an increase of over 6,000 in the number of unemployables. An analysis of occupations practised by employed blind persons in England and Wales yields the following statistics :—

Agents, collectors, etc.	241
Basket and cane workers	1,867
Boot repairers	294
Brush makers	419
Carpenters	41
Clergymen	36
Clerks, typists	139
Telephone operators	39
Dealers (tea agents, shop keepers, etc.)	715
Domestic servants	211
Farmers	59
Hawkers	292
Home teachers	134
Knitters	946
Labourers	173
Massage	120
Mat makers	599
Mattress makers	50
Musicians and music teachers ..	303
Net makers	31
Newsvendors	241
Poultry farmers	202
School masters	48
Seamstresses and upholsterers ..	29
Straw and string bag makers ..	86
Piano tuners	507
Miscellaneous	1,018
Total	8,840

The term "unemployable" is not used to describe persons who are necessarily incapable of being employed in industry. For example, a very small proportion are in possession of private means, while a large number are married women, occupied at home with their domestic duties. The great bulk of the unemployable blind, probably numbering some 18,000 to 20,000 persons, are definitely incapable of performing any work of an economic worth. The great majority of these live in their own homes and are over 50 years of age. The Committee state that they are generally well satisfied with the provisions made by the Home Teaching and Visiting services, and impressed with the value of social centres and clubs for the blind.

A considerable number of local authorities have now made definite arrangements for the financial assistance of unemployable blind persons living in their own homes; but in some areas no attempt, it is stated, is being made to meet the financial requirements of this class in a systematic way. The Committee recommend that the authorities, in co-operation with the appropriate Boards of Guardians and voluntary agencies, should make a survey of the position as regards the unemployable blind in their areas, and consider proposals for dealing with their requirements according to a definite policy of assistance.

With respect to the remuneration of workers employed in Workshops for the Blind, the Committee state that they have examined an analysis of the trading results of a number of the larger workshops, and found that, judging by the considerable increase in the number of workers employed and the total wages and augmentation paid, it was clear that not only had the benefits of workshop provision been extended, but that the average total income from wages and augmentation was considerably higher than previous to the passing of the Blind Persons Act. It is recommended that the piece-work basis as at present prescribed in the Ministry's Regulations be maintained.

With regard to augmentation, the present Committee reaffirm the principle of a sliding-scale basis, as laid down by their predecessors. They consider it desirable that there should be a raising of the wage-limit before deductions are made, and that the deductions themselves should be less severe, and they recommend the adoption of the following scale of augmentation as a general national minimum :—

An augmentation allowance of 15/- per week on all earnings up to 16/- per week, with deductions of 1d. in the shilling for earnings between 16/- and 20/-, 2d. in the shilling for earnings from 20/- to 30/-, and 3d. in the shilling for all earnings over 30/-, subject to a fixed augmentation allowance of 6/9 for all earnings over 55/- a week. All deductions to run concurrently.

This scale is based primarily on the economic disability of the normal blind workshop employee, and, in order to meet the exigencies of exceptional cases, it is recommended that employing agencies should be encouraged to frame, in addition to their general scale of augmentation, a special system of relief to meet the individual needs of workers whose incomes from wages and augmentation are inadequate. The Committee express the hope that a liberal interpretation will be given to the scale wherever possible.

In connection with the employment of the blind, they express appreciation of the Research Department of the National Institute for the Blind, with special reference to the investigations of new avenues of employment, of which the Committee will be interested to learn the results.

The question of the provision of emoluments to blind persons undergoing a course of training in institutions recognised by the Board of Education has also been under consideration. It seems desirable to the Committee that immediately prior to the commencement of training, arrangements should be made for the provision of the necessary maintenance allowance from the Local Education Authority, Board of Guardians, or other appropriate source. Besides such provision, they consider it desirable that as a stimulus to industry the Managing Boards of Training Institutions should make tangible rewards for progress and good conduct. In the case of Residential Training Institutions, only nominal payments by the managing body to the students of approximately 1/- to 3/- are recommended.

As regards the industrial training of the blind, training in an institution recognised by the Board of Education is urged, and it is recommended that all Training Institutions for the Blind be required to keep on their premises full records of the careers of their ex-students over 16 years of age for at least a period of five years. Further, the Committee express their approbation of the scheme for the unification of collections, as detailed in the May issue of *The Beacon*.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

NOVEMBER has been a month of many appeals for the Fund in many districts. No fewer than eight Masonic lodges have welcomed a speaker—Mr. H. C. Preece, except when prevented by another engagement. Blind artistes have provided a musical programme at a number of these dinners and have also given concerts at Abbots Langley (under the auspices of the H.O.B. Circle), Blackheath, Charlton, Highams Park, Tottenham, Catford, Ruislip (again organised by the local Circle), Croydon, South Norwood and Teddington. Also Ashtead, organised by Mrs. Lenox who has been responsible for "Geranium Day" for some years past, this resulting in the formation of a Circle, with herself as Chairman, and Miss Creswell as Secretary; and at Muswell Hill, arranged by another "Geranium Day" organiser, Mrs. Burr. Both events were very successful, as was the concert at Bowes Park on November 27th, when some of the blind artistes assisted with a fine programme provided by professionals who generously gave their services. The annual concert at Harefield Schools took place on the 24th, the financial result being as satisfactory as usual; and the Anchor Mission —old friends of the Fund—arranged their first concert on the 13th, the speaker being Miss Edwards: an initial effort which promises to become an annual event. Mr. Knight assisted with the programme on the 11th, when pupils of Miss Skinner gave an entertainment at East Ham; Miss Johnston was the representative of the Fund.

A new H.O.B. Circle was formed at Pinner on the 29th, arranged by Mrs. Seiflow, whose successful annual jumble sale for the Fund had taken place on the 17th.

In addition to speaking at these meetings, one of the Joint Secretaries addressed audiences at St. Peter's Church, De Beauvoir Town, Kingsland Congregational Church, Tower Hill Group, Toc H, and Claremont Central Mission. At the last named Miss Edwards also spoke, as at a number of Sisterhood meetings throughout the month.

The Guy Fawkes Revel at Hammersmith, on November 5th, is now known to have resulted in a net profit of £242 14s. 11d., a sum on which Lady Fulton and her Committee are to be congratulated.

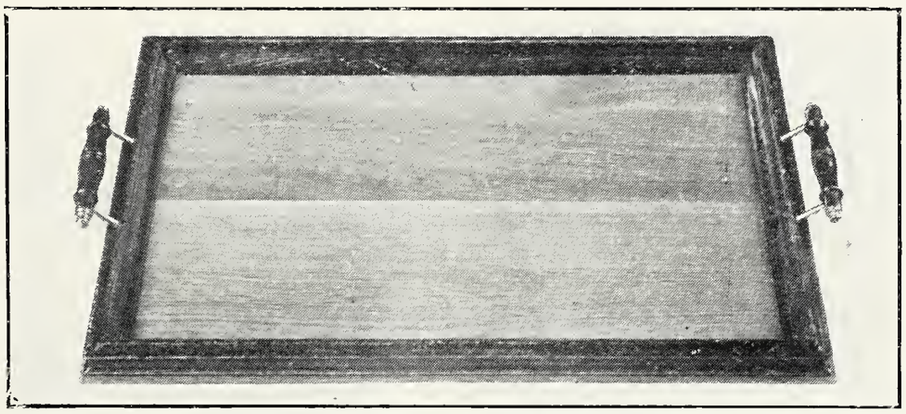
HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

WOODEN TRAY MAKING



TO-DAY we approach a subject which will appeal to male readers in particular, especially those who have had some previous experience in the use of tools. Woodwork as a Home Occupation has perhaps not received the attention it deserves, due possibly to an impression that it is much more difficult than, say, basket work. There is, however, nothing formidable about those branches of the work which will be dealt with here; indeed, many blind home workers are at the present moment deriving both pleasure and profit from the practice of this craft.

One of the simplest, and at the same time one of the most remunerative, forms of simple woodwork is the making of tea and coffee trays. These are used in every household, and to the worker with the necessary aptitude who seriously intends taking up woodwork they provide, if the simple methods given below be adopted, not only a good first step in woodwork, but also an opportunity to "earn while learning."



WOODEN TRAY WITH MITRED CORNERS.

Two methods of tray making—or perhaps assembling would be the better word, as the work involves little more—are given below: (1) the simplest, in which copper corners are used, thus eliminating the task of mitreing the corners; and (2) that employing mitred corners. The trays we shall make are all rectangular in shape, and the sizes will vary according to individual requirements. The following are commonly met with, the dimensions being those of the board forming base of tray: 16 in. by 11 in.; 18 in. by 12 in. or 13 in; 20 in. by 14 in. Coffee trays are narrower in proportion to their length than tea trays, 22 in. by 9 in. being a convenient size for the latter.

THE TOOLS.—For the simpler kind of tray with copper corners all the tools that are really essential are the following: a small, fine-toothed tenon saw; a light hammer; a small screwdriver; a fine bradawl; and some sheets of glass-paper, coarse and fine, with a glass-paper block round which the sheets are wrapped when in use. For trays with mitred corners a MITRE BLOCK (or better still a MITRE BOX) is essential. Other tools (such as a brace and bit and a small iron plane) will, of course, be used if available; but it is quite possible to make a start with those given, the whole of which should not cost more than about 7/6.

THE MATERIALS.—First and foremost comes the base for which three-ply wood is recommended. This is three-sixteenths of an inch in thickness, and is supplied ready cut to size required by firms such as Handicrafts, Ltd., Lister Works, Weedington Road, KentishTown, London, N.W.5, or their agents throughout the country; or from shops in all parts of London, or any fairly large provincial town from which sources can also be obtained the other necessary items. Next we require oak moulding for sides and ends of tray which is supplied in various patterns. That used with copper corners is specially made to fit into the latter, and that for trays with mitred corners must have its underside flat for screwing to base and also a flat outer side to which handles are attached. Copper tray corners are sold in sets of four, the ends of the special moulding passing into these for about half-an-inch and being secured with small nails. Our trays have a handle at each end, and these are bought ready for fixing. Screws for this purpose are supplied to match the particular style of handle, and we shall also

require some flat-headed screws from one-half to three-quarters of an inch long for screwing the moulding to base. Lastly, in the case of mitred corners we require glue; and Croid liquid glue, which is ready for use, is recommended.

A Plain Tray with Copper Corners.—The following materials will be required, their approximate cost being given in brackets: a piece of birch ply-wood for base, say, 16 in. by 11 in. (6d.); 4 ft. 6 ins. of special oak moulding at 1½ per foot (8d.); a set of copper tray corners (1/-); two copper-finished handles (4d.); screws and nails (4d.); total cost about 2/10.

First smooth the top side of base with fine glass-paper, and then cut the moulding to the lengths required by placing the copper corners in position with their ends almost flush with sides and ends of base. It will be necessary to measure only one side piece and one end piece, the remaining two pieces being cut exactly the same as the first two. Next nail the ends of moulding into ends of copper corners, and, placing the complete moulding on base, turn the whole over for screwing. The holes for screws are drilled with the bradawl (or a brace and bit if available), five along each side and four at each end, and the screws must be driven well home so that they do not project. The corners of base are now rounded with coarse glass-paper, and fine glass-paper is used to finish the edge of base all round so that it is flush with the moulding. The tray is completed by screwing on the handles and giving a final rub with fine glass-paper where necessary.

Tray with Mitred Corners.—For this procure a base of ply-wood, say 16 in. by 11 in. as before, with a veneer of oak. This veneer should be thicker than that found on ordinary veneered ply-wood, or it will be liable to peel when a hot teapot is placed on it. Four ft. 6 ins. of suitable oak moulding will also be required, and handles and screws as before. First carefully cut the side and end mouldings in the mitre box, and then screw the two end pieces to base. Next take one of the side pieces, and give its ends and the corresponding ends of the mouldings which have been fixed a thin coat of liquid glue. Fit the side piece into position, turn the work over and screw it to base, repeating these operations for the other side piece. Wipe off any surplus glue, and then finish off the edges of base as before. After the handles have been fixed, the top of tray and the moulding are given an oiled finish. This is quite simple, involving only the rubbing on of raw linseed oil with a soft cloth; but it decidedly improves the appearance of the tray, giving it a darker, richer effect and showing up the beauty of the grain.

A. G. K.

THE STROLLING PLAYERS AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

ON Saturday, December 11th, Galsworthy's "The Skin Game" was very effectively presented by the Strolling Players. Though stage machinery was necessarily absent, the blind (who comprised the bulk of the audience) got a splendid idea of the whole plot, the individual parts being admirably taken, while a concise introduction to each scene provided just what was wanted in the way of connecting links.

The play is concerned with class conflict, the squire of a country parish coming into violent collision with a master potter who is determined to put up factories which would detract from the value of the squire's estate. This provides ground for some intense dramatic moments and a well worked up climax.

The play gave such obvious satisfaction to all who attended it that it has been decided to give another on Tuesday, January 11th, at 6.30 p.m.

Mr. H. C. Warrilow, who gave a short organ recital before the performance, moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Flannery—who had arranged for the production of the play—and to all those who took part, a vote which was enthusiastically responded to.

Invitations were issued to the blind of the London workshops, and the evening's entertainment was a great success. H. C. W.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

18 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

MISS O. I. PRINCE, Secretary of the National Library, states that during the period of changing over from the old to the new building, the despatching of books is being somewhat delayed, and it is feared that some readers are not getting their consignments. Everything possible is being done to carry on under rather difficult conditions, and the hope is expressed that readers will understand if their books are not sent as quickly as usual.

BOOK REVIEWS

BLINDNESS, by Henry Green (Messrs. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., price 7/6 net).



E find it difficult to use an adjective that will adequately describe the work of this young author, who, we understand, is barely out of his teens. "Clever" is too mild an epithet, "precocious" sounds impolite. "Uncanny" is perhaps somewhat nearer the mark, for a perusal of the book leaves one literally gasping at the power of character-depiction displayed by so youthful an author. Where and when in his short life did Mr. Green find the time to study, and the ability to portray with life-like touches characters such as his hero's stepmother, his old nurse, and the girl, Joan.

John Haye, aged 17, is blinded by a stone flung at a passing train by a careless child. He leaves school (which we gather was by no means his spiritual home) to live with his stepmother, first amid all the strictures of village life with its gossip and "small" interests, then in the confused bustle of London. In adapting himself to his new life, and in endeavouring to bring his mental attitude into harmony with the world in which he lives, he turns to those around him for support. Most of them give him little help or comfort, and the cynicism with which he was apparently fully equipped before he became blind, added to the bitterness of spirit produced by his affliction, for a time gain the upper hand.

A vision—or, more accurately speaking, a beautiful and mystical experience—at last provides him with strength to continue the conflict, and we leave him anxious to get into touch with his old friends, to write, and to take up the burden of his new life in a spirit of cheerful investigation.

As a psychological study of a blinded man this is a remarkable book. It contains, moreover, some fine descriptions of nature, and there is humour, tinged with a flavour of bitterness, in many passages. Perhaps in his later efforts Mr. Green will put a curb on the cynicism which mars some of his finest work, and the inevitable morbidity of exaggerated introspection.

The following is an example of his descriptive powers :—

> "The sun lights up the top of the beech tree into golden fire, and there is a movement in the paleness. It begins to go, while the sky fades back into everyday life. The fire creeps down the beech till the tops of the overgrown laurels are alight; the mist has drawn off to the river just below there. Everything brightens and stretches out of sleep, the sky is blue almost. A butterfly aimlessly flutters over the cabbages, the flycatcher swoops down and she is swallowed; he was on guard already. A pigeon drives by, a bright streak of silver painted on him by the sun. The birds chirp in earnest as the sun climbs higher and begins to make shadows, while anywhere that a drop of dew catches the light he breaks into a gem. A gossamer web will dart suddenly across something, like a rainbow thread."

And there is a touch of humour in Mrs. Haye's reflections concerning their old dog: "He was so old. . . What enjoyment could he get out of life, lying there by the fire asleep all day and hardly eating at all? Yet he had been such a good servant, for ten years he had barked faithfully at friends. The only time he had *not* barked was when the burglars had come when they had eaten the Christmas cake and left the silver."

How bitter and at the same time what fine lines are to be found in the following passage:

> "He was blind. Everyone would be sorry for him, everyone would try to help him, and everyone would be at his beck and call; it was very nice, it was comfortable. And he would take full advantage; after all, he deserved it in all conscience. He would enjoy life: why not? But he was blind. He would never be able to go out in the morning and recognise the sweep of lawn and garden again, and to wonder that all should be the same. He would never again be able to appreciate the miracle that anything could be so beautiful, never to see a bird again, or a cloud or a tree. . . . Never to see a flower softly alive in a field, never to see colour again, never to watch colour and line together build up little exquisite temples to beauty. And the time when he had gone down on his knees before a daffodil with Herrick at the back of his mind: how he had grown drunk before it. And then the thought of how finely poetic he must be looking as he knelt

before a daffodil in his best flannel trousers. What a cynic he was ! . . ."

In the end, when the vision is with him, comes peace, and with it the will to make good.

" He must first make out how he stood with life in general, so that he could show them how much better off he was than they. . . It was the easiest thing in the world to see, and so many were content with only the superficial appearance of things ; it would teach them so much if they were to go blind, though blindness was a burden at first."

There is very little doubt that this book will hold the attention of those who are interested in the psychology of the blind. Apart from this, it is a first book of great promise, and we look forward to Mr. Green's maturer productions with real pleasure.

E. G.

"WINGS ON THE WATER," By Frances Mary Barnett (Price 2/6).

THESE poems, the work of a blind girl who was educated at the Royal Normal College, Norwood, show a considerable amount of talent. Gifted with imagination which she knows how to clothe in appropriate language, Miss Barnett writes of family life, and depicts country scenes and imagined episodes, revealing a quick mind to grasp the essentials of life. We take the liberty of quoting the following exquisite little poem, which was originally published in *The English Review* :—

WITHIN A CHINA CABINET.

Within a china cabinet,
With many other figures set,
Are ladies, trim and prim and neat,
Slim and straight, with little feet,
Dressed in bodices of white,
With crinolines well laced and tight.
Well seasoned wood, that smells so sweet,
Surrounds them, giving life complete
To mien demure and smile discreet.
Some friends I had. When we had met
But once or twice, a glimpse was caught
Of olden days. " Such folks," I thought,
" Live in my china cabinet."
But when I came to know them more,
Those gentle ladies, now I saw,
Were swinging wide their long glass door
To step demurely to the floor.
My real friends had goodly store
Of thoughts, refinement, gentle wit.
Often their mood was lively. Yet
They never lost a certain air
Of other days and other things.
Of all that recollection brings,
One picture can alone compare
With them. About that picture clings
The smell of wood and lavender,
And, in it, with a smile discreet,
With mittened hands, red-slippered feet,
And crinolines befrilled so neat,
There stand those ladies—as before—
With Cupid, Pan, and many more,
Within my china cabinet.

Readers will be interested to know that the Berkshire County Blind Society are to receive all the proceeds from the sale of this delightful little book of verses.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

FICTION.

Bindloss, H. The Dust of Conflict	4 vols.
Borden, M. Three Pilgrims and a Tinker ..	4 vols.
Clouston, J. S. Count Bunker	3 vols.
Deland, M. Iron Woman	7 vols.
Dennis, E. God's Fairy Tales	3 vols.
Dudeney, Mrs. H. Candlelight	3 vols.
Goodwin, E. Caravan Man	4 vols.
Harraden, B. Patuffa	4 vols.
Hine, Muriel. Spell of Siris	4 vols.
Hocking, J. Game and the Candle	4 vols.
Hutchinson, A. S. M. One Increasing Purpose	7 vols.
Johnston, M. Slave Ship	4 vols.
*Lewis, W. R. Sunderland. Cubwood	4 vols.
Orczy, Baroness. Petticoat Government ..	5 vols.
Parker, Sir G. Carnac	3 vols.
Raymond, E. T. Daphne Bruno	5 vols.
Raymond, E. T. Fulfilment of Daphne Bruno	6 vols.
Stern, G. B. Larry Munro	3 vols.
Sutherland, J. Circle of the Stars	6 vols.
Ward, Mrs. H. The Coryston Family ..	5 vols.
Wells, H. G. Ann Veronica	5 vols.
Williamson, C. N. and A. M. Great Pearl Secret	3 vols.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Atkins, T. A. Durable Satisfaction of Life ..	2 vols.
*Belloc, H. French Revolution	2 vols.
Bennett, A. Essays of To-day and Yesterday	1 vol.
Brooksbank, F. H. Legends of Ancient Egypt	3 vols.
Guedella, P. Essays of To-day and Yesterday	1 vol.
Guedella, P. Independence Day (" E. W. Austin Memorial Fund ")	3 vols.
Hawes, C. H. and H. B. Crete : the Forerunner of Greece (" E. W. Austin Memorial Fund ")	2 vols.
Hudson, W. H. Shepherd's Life : Impressions of the South Wiltshire Downs	5 vols.

* Presented by the National Institute for the Blind.

(*To be continued next Month*)

BRAILLE BOOKS—*Continued*

6966	"Uncle" (from "Leaves of Arcady"), by Horace Annesley Vachell	1	6
6967	"The Call of the Forest" (from "Leaves of Arcady"), by Horace Annesley Vachell	2	6
6968	"The Lovely Lady" (from "Leaves of Arcady"), by Horace Annesley Vachell	1	9
7186	"A Pair of Muddy Shoes," by Lennox Robinson; "The Bambino," by May Sinclair; "10," by Oliver Onions (from "Georgian Stories, 1922")	3	0
7008	"A Counterfeit Presentment" and "The Jade Buddha" (from "Quinney's Adventures), by Horace Annesley Vachell	3	3
7004, 7005	"Castle Kilrain" (from "Quinney's Adventures"), by Horace Annesley Vachell, 2 vols. per vol.	3	3
6952-6954	"The Flying Inn," by G. K. Chesterton, 3 vols. per vol.	8	9
6901-6906	"Short Stories of To-day," by J. W. Marriott, 6 parts per part	3	0
6892-6896	"The Comic Muse," by J. C. Squire, 5 parts per part	3	0
6846-6850	"The Ghost Ship," and other Stories, by Richard Middleton, 5 series per serie	3	0
6844	"Tartarin of Tarascon," by Alphonse Daudet	3	0
	POETRY..		
6576	"Messiah," "Ode to Music on St. Cecilia's Day" and "Elegy to the Memory of an Unfortunate Lady," by Alexander Pope	1	0
7407-7409	Selections from the Shorter Poems of Sir Walter Scott, 3 vols. per vol.	3	0
6524	Selected Poems, by George Meredith	3	3
	MUSIC: THEORETICAL—		
7443	700 Musical Terms, by E. Watson	1	9
	MISCELLANEOUS—		
7501	Almanac for 1927	2	6
7462	Braille Calendar for 1927	0	6
	RELIGIOUS WORKS—		
7451	Scripture Union Portions for 1927	0	9

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

2556-2559	Selected Stories by Kipling (Limited Edition), 4 vols. per vol.	12	6
2363	A Key to Braille in Moon	0	6
2364	Quarterly Intercession Paper (No. 103, 1st Quarter, 1927)	5	6

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

LIST OF ADDITIONS, DECEMBER, 1926 (continued), and JANUARY, 1927

FICTION.

Loos, Anita. Gentlemen prefer Blondes	2 vols.
McKenna, S. The Oldest God	5 vols.
"Richard Dehan." Man of Iron	7 vols.
Footner, H. Under Dogs	5 vols.
Sheridan, W. Five Brains	4 vols.
Sabatini, N. Lion's Skin	5 vols.
Bridges, V. Mr. Lyndon at Liberty	6 vols.
Wallace, E. Sandi, the King-maker	3 vols.
Ruck, B. Dancing Star	5 vols.
Williams, V. Orange Divan	3 vols.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Jarrett, Rev. B. Life of St. Dominic	3 vols.
*Loane, G. G. (Editor). Selected English Essays	2 vols.
Lodge, Sir Oliver. Evolution and Creation	1 vol.
Lowell, J. R. Among my Books	6 vols.
Matthews, Basil. Paul the Dauntless	4 vols.
Tinker, C. B. Young Boswell ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund")	3 vols.
*Warner, G. T., and Marten, G. H. K. Groundwork of British History (B.C. 55 to 1921)	13 vols.
Woods, F. H., and Powell, F. E. (Editors). Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets for English readers	2 vols.
Birrell, A. Essays of To-day and Yesterday	1 vol.
Gibson, C. R. Romance of Modern Photography	4 vols.
Maynard, Constance. Bible in the Twentieth Century	1 vol.
Lang, A. Prince Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Chevalier	
Trevelyan, G. R. Garibaldi and the Making of Italy, June-November, 1860 ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund")	5 vols.
Belloc, H. Miniatures of French History, B.C. 599-1914	3 vols.
"World Call to the Church." Call from the Moslem World	2 vols.
*Grey of Fallodon. Twenty-five Years, 1892-1916	6 vols.

GRADE III.

Adler, F. Life and Destiny	1 vol.
Snaith, J. C. The Sailor	6 vols.

MOON.

Aurelius, Marcus. Meditations	4 vols.
Kaye-Smith, S. Tramping Methodist	5 vols.
Kipling, R. Poems	1 vol.
MacNaughtan, S. A Lame Dog's Diary	5 vols.
Trine, R. W. In Tune with the Infinite	5 vols.

*Presented by the National Institute for the Blind.

BRAILLE MAGAZINES
Contents of the January Numbers

Progress.—Exploring by Aeroplane—The Blind Harper—The Friendly Deer—Some Auction-Room Romances—A Short Guide to Europe—Correspondence—Matters of the Moment—Solution to Christmas Cross-Word Puzzle—Our Prize Competitions—Advertisements—Free Wireless Licences for the Blind—How many Miles do you Walk?—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page, Baram et Copher (Contes et Légendes)—Barbara Mary's Thousand and one Dreams. Supplements: "Progress" Chess; Home Occupations for the Blind: Gentleman's Silk Sock; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—A visit to Mr. Henry Ford—Alchemy—Why I dislike the Zoo—History as she is wrote—Notices—Reviews of Books. Supplement: Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—A Tale of many Tails—The Story of the Post Office: No. 2: Telegraphs and their Story—The Wisdom of the Rook—Notice: National Library for the Blind—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—A Greeting to Winter (Poem)—What do we mean by "Horse Power"? Supplements: "Comrades"; Map of the Basin of St. Lawrence; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Studies in Pianoforte Interpretation—N.I.B. Braille Music Publications—"Recreational" Music, etc.—A Useful Book for Students of Composition—Advertisement—Notes and News Concerning the Blind—Organs and Organ Building in Canada and the United States. Supplements: Braille Music Reviews; Announcements; Inset: Piano: Shulbrede Tune, No. 10, by Parry. ((Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 6d .per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Some of the Defences of the Body—Section of Neurology and Psychology (continued). Supplements: "Massage Journal" Inset; Massage and some Abdominal Conditions; Deep Spinal Massage; State Registration (continued); Official Notices; Announcements. (6d. per copy, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—One of History's Brave Women (Children's Newspaper)—Selling Wives (John o' London's Weekly)—A Show of Hands (Daily Mail)—Birds that Heal their Wounds—Shingled Savages (Daily Mail)—A Beacon for the Blind—Butterflies that Cross the Channel—Gabriel Samara (Book 1, Chapters VI, VII), by E. Phillips Oppenheim—Thought for the Month—Mr. Bok and his Birds—The Wisdom of the Rook—From the Wilds to Women's Shoulders. (1s. 8d. per month, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Energy—Nut Crackers—News Items—The Poet's Corner—Correspondence—The Poetry of Good Cheer—Favourite Quotations—Delicacy—International Notes—Automatic Telephones—Three Capitals—Advertisements and General Notices. Supplements: Literary: "How much Land does a Man Require?" (concluded); "The Welfare of the Blind." Music: History of a Song: "And shall Trelawny Die?" by A. B. Cooper; Piano: "Menuetto," by Schubert. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

The Seeker.—Editorial—The Seven Words from the Cross, by the Editor—The Mystery Teaching of the Bible: VII: The Chosen People, by Daisy E. Grove—The Dramatic History of the Christian Faith: V: Marcion and the Gnostics; Heresy or Orthodoxy? by J. J. Van Der Leuw—There is no Death: Beholding and Seeing, by the Ven. Basil Wilberforce, D.D.—St. Francis of Assisi, by W. P. Swainson—"Tibet," Past and Present, by Sir Charles Bell, K.C.I.E., C.M.G.—Delphi, by Charlotte Woods (Poem).

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Moon Magazine.—Love's Good Turn—Out of the Mouths—When Salt is dear in Morocco—By Long Chalks—Eat More Fruit—Tree in a Hat!—Insect that Makes Films—Ding Dong Dell! (Subscription: Inland and abroad: 9s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

A well educated lady, young, sighted, experienced, **desires** appointment as **Home Teacher** or as **Matron-Teacher** in school or institution for blind. Can transcribe all literature, etc. Certificated Nurse, can take responsible post. Any district, residential or otherwise.—Write "L," 52 Broxash Road, Clapham Common, S.W.11.

WANTED, Home Teacher for the Blind. Salary, £3 per week. Apply by letter, giving age, qualifications and references to The Secretary, Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, 30 Tonman Street, Deansgate, Manchester.

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.
The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	CHURCH—		
7534	Twelve Vesper Hymns, by Various Composers (Vertical score)	2	5
	ORGAN—		
7535	Choral No. 1 in E, by César Franck (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	7
7536	"Parsifal," Selection, by Wagner (arr. by A. Seymour) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7537	Three Short Pieces: Prelude, Air and Gavotte, by Samuel Wesley (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO—		
7538	Prelude in G minor (from the 3rd English Suite), by Bach (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7539	"Chanson de Nuit," Op. 15, No. 1, by Elgar (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7540	"Chanson de Matin," Op. 15, No. 2, by Elgar (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7541	No. 2 of "Two Free Fugues," Op. 54, by H. Farjeon (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7542	"Robinson Crusoe" (Suite of Solos and Duets), by Colin Hood (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	1
7543	"The Pianist's First Music-Making," Bk. II (for use in conjunction with the Child's First Steps"), by Matthay and Swinstead (Bar by bar), pocket size	7	1
7544	Shulbrede Tune, No. 10, by Parry (Bar by bar)	2	0
7545	"Martial Moments" (March Medley), Aubrey Winter (arr. by) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	7
	PIANOFORTE DUET—		
7546	"Lanterns" (very easy), by C. Carpenter (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	DANCE—		
7547	"Speak!" Song-waltz, by H. Nicholls (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7548	"Two Little Bluebirds" (from "Sunny"), Vocal Dance, by J. Kern (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7549	"What can I say, after I've said I'm sorry," Song Fox-trot, by Lyman Donaldson (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7550	"Then I'll be Happy," Song Fox-trot, by C. Friend (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
7551	"Mary of Argyle," arr. by Clutsam (F: Compass D to F′), pocket size	2	0
7552	"If any Little Song of Mine," by Teresa Del Riego (C: Compass C to E′), pocket size	2	0
7553	"Take all thy Sorrows," by Guy d'Hardelot (F: Compass C to F′), pocket size	2	0
7554	"Three Green Bonnets," by Guy d'Hardelot (E flat: Compass E to E′), pocket size	2	0
7555	"To one who passed Whistling through the Night," by Armstrong Gibbs (C: Compass F to C′), pocket size	2	0
7556	"A Song of the North Wind," by Harold Head (F minor: Compass A, to F′), pocket size	2	0
7557	"The Stock-Rider's Song" (from the "Australian Bush Songs"), by W. G. James (C: Compass B, to E′) pocket size	2	0
7558	"Happy Summer Song," by Gerald Kahn (E flat: Compass E to F′), pocket size	2	0
7559	"A Song of the Sea" (Unison Song), by Charles Wood, pocket size	2	0
	DUET—		
7560	"A Night in Venice," for Soprano and Tenor, by G. Lucantoni	2	0

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

		s.	d.
	ESSAYS, BELLE LETTRES, ETC.—		
6642	"An Essay on Criticism," by Alexander Pope	2	9
6357	"Oliver Cromwell," by the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Rosebery, K.T., K.G.	1	3
	FICTION—		
6972	"The Track of the Wandering Jew"; "At the Front" (from Tomaso's Fortune), by H. Seton Merriman	3	0
6973	"The Mule"; "In Love and War"; "For Juanita's Sake" (from Tomaso's Fortune), by H. Seton Merriman	3	0
6974	"A Small World"; "A Pariah" (from Tomaso's Fortune), by H. Seton Merriman	3	0
6975	"Sister"; "In a Crooked Way"; "The Prodigal's Return" (from Tomaso's Fortune), by H. Seton Merriman	3	0
6970	"Stranded"; "Putting Things Right"; "The Gate of Tears" (from Tomaso's Fortune), by H. Seton Merriman	3	0
6964	"Sarah" (from "Leaves of Arcady"), by Horace Annesley Vachell	1	9
6965	"Set a Maid to Catch a Maid" (from "Leaves of Arcady"), by Horace Annesley Vachell	1	6

(Continued on page 3 of Cover)

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XI.—NO. 123. MARCH, 1927. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

THE WORK OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND



THE Education Committee of the National Institute for the Blind was formed in 1925, and its present members are as follows :—Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E. (*Chairman*), Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., D.Sc., Mr. J. Ferguson, B.A., M.B., D.P.H., Mr. W. Percy Merrick, Mr. G. F. Mowatt, J.P., Sir Richard Paget, Bart., Mr. John Tennant, Mr. T. H. Tylor, M.A., B.C.L., Mr. F. I. Stainsby (*Secretary*).

Its terms of reference are :—

1. Authority to investigate and control all educational matters.
2. Authority to act as managers of :—
   (*a*) The Chorley Wood College for the higher education of girls with little or no sight.
   (*b*) The Massage Department of the National Institute.
   (*c*) The educational side of the Blind Babies' Homes in co-operation with the Homes Committee.
   (*d*) The Students' Library and the Library of the Massage Department.
3. Authority to supervise the production of manuscript books for educational purposes and to make recommendations to the Publications Committee with regard to educational works which, in the opinion of the Education Committee, should be stereotyped.
4. Authority to co-operate with the Technical and Research Committee as to the selection of suitable models and apparatus for the use of the blind.
5. Authority to make recommendations to the Council with regard to the founding, allocation and financing of scholarships, including those tenable at Public Schools and Universities, and also with regard to the payment of any students' fees deemed advisable.

At first glance it will be seen that the work of this Committee is largely co-operative with the work of other Committees, *e.g.*, the Technical and Research Committee and the Publications Committee, whose work we have described in previous issues of *The Beacon*, and the Homes Committee. This is because, broadly speaking, the entire work of the National Institute is educative in character. Relief work is the starting point of most philanthropic work for the blind, but unless it develops into progressive educative work, its life and value are limited by individuals. Indeed, the effect of relief work is often the reverse of beneficial if it is uncoupled with educative work of some nature.

Accordingly, the scope of the Education Committee's vision really must extend to every activity of the National Institute, and it is

therefore, perhaps, more an advisory than an executive committee. Strictly speaking, education is synonymous with progress, and the main duty of an education committee must always be to conceive, suggest and supervise ways and means to the substantiation, betterment and extension of any vital idea.

The mere mention of a few landmarks in the growth of the National Institute will prove that the educational principle has always governed its work.

The adaptation of Braille to the English language was followed by the wider dissemination of Braille literature. Embossed pamphlets were followed by embossed books, books by journals, journals by newspapers, reading matter by illustrations. Old Style Braille was followed by Grade 1, Grade 1 by Grade 2, literature by music, simple music notation by a complete and thorough system. Again, relief work expanded into elementary education and training in handicrafts; the former led to higher education; the latter to training in technical professions. A more subtle line of growth is illustrated by the recognition of the importance of education and training in earliest infancy and the consequent establishment of the Blind Babies' Home; while even more important, yet even less definable, has been the result of a study of the psychology of the blind and the influence of the attitude adopted by philanthropic work on their behalf—a development which has substituted the living waters of sympathy for the Dead Sea of pity, and has formed and nourished a flower in a blind man's soul where once was no life but the negative life of a weed.

Thus, we may be excused if we deal with the work of the Education Committee generally rather than specifically, and take its terms of reference rather as a guide to the interpretation of the inner meaning of the Institute's entire work than as a limitation of a Committee's interests. In fact, the first term of reference, "authority to investigate and control all educational matters," is our justification for this attitude, and properly ascribes to this Committee a universal advisory capacity.

The second, third and fifth terms of reference cover all educational work for the blind in the stricter sense, that is, the care and training of blind babies; the elementary education of children in so far as it comes within the scope of the National Institute's work; the higher education of the blind—more particularly, Chorley Wood College, the School of Massage, and the Students' and Massage Libraries; the production of educational works either in manuscript or from stereotyped plates; and the allocation of financial assistance to individual education.

Readers of *The Beacon* are probably well acquainted with the educational work now carried on at the Blind Babies' Homes, Chorley Wood College and the School of Massage. These activities of the National Institute have been frequently dealt with in these pages, and it will not be necessary to give an extended description of them here. It is as well, however, to point out that each of these activities may be regarded as an illustration of the different aspects from which the Education Committee has to consider the problems confronting it.

The educational system adopted at the Blind Babies' Homes illustrates the adaptation of education to meet the deficiencies of blindness; that at the School of Massage illustrates the adaptation of education to meet the proficiencies of blindness; and that at the Chorley Wood College illustrates the blending of the two.

At the Blind Babies' Homes, a defect is to be overcome; at the School of Massage, a quality is to be fostered; at the Chorley Wood College, qualities are ascertained or instilled.

Every individual case, therefore, which comes before the Education Committee must be examined from these three points of view, *i.e.*, Are there still defects of blindness to be overcome? Are there as yet definite qualities or abilities to be ascertained or instilled? Is there an outstanding ability to be nourished?

It can be readily understood that the constant examination of the first question led to the primary reason for the establishment of the Blind Babies' Homes, namely, the knowledge that the defects of blindness are infinitely harder to eradicate when the character is formed than in infancy. People who lose their sight in later life are consciously in the position of infants, obliged to learn how to walk, eat, read, write and so on, and to conquer their blindness each individual has to enter, as it were, his or her "Blind Babies' Home." Otherwise, like the untrained, or rather wrongly trained, actual blind baby, their only acquirements will be how to walk incorrectly, eat incorrectly, read incorrectly, write incorrectly, etc.

The establishment of the Blind Babies' Homes was therefore an immense advance in

the education for the blind. Each successful "Sunshine" baby is the foundation stone of a fair building, the healthy seed of a promising flower, and is able to take full advantage of every opportunity afforded by the approved elementary schools for the blind in all parts of the country. Its after-career will depend on its own innate abilities or on the financial position of its parents; but whatever handicraft or profession is adopted, the pupil's intelligence should be ripe to receive every educational help afforded to blindness to-day.

But it would not be just to the blind to deprive them of all chance of a public school education. Yet while Worcester College had long offered a first-class public school education to blind boys, until 1921 no such facilities existed for blind girls.

It was for the "public school" type of blind girl that Chorley Wood College was then founded. Before its establishment, the only form of training available for her was individual tuition by home teachers of the blind or the unfair competition of a school for girls with eyesight. Now, however, the blind girl can enjoy the happiness of being normal, of being a necessary part of a whole rather than an isolated unit outside a whole. As the well-known ophthalmic surgeon, Mr. N. Bishop Harman, has said in his description in the *British Medical Journal* of Chorley Wood College: "The shy, solitary, self-centred blind girl soon learns through comradeship to cast off that sense of separateness which a physical handicap is apt to engender, and in so doing takes the first step to the acquisition of independence." "To be taught in company with others is infinitely more stimulating to the mind than the monotony of the most assiduous solitary teaching, whilst the play of wits engendered by life in a community such as a public school of itself affords a training that will give the blind girl a capacity for independence of judgment and of action which is an endowment of no mean advantage in these days."

But what of the Worcester boy or the Chorley Wood girl when he or she leaves College? How are they to earn their living in the face of strenuous, baffling modern competition? This, perhaps, is the most difficult problem with which any Education Committee working for the blind has to cope. For, in dealing with the blind, educational work does not end with the definite attainment of a specific degree of knowledge. If it did, progressive work for the blind would be at an end, and as work can never be stationary, educational work for the blind would decline. The brain of every man or woman in this world is either growing or declining in power. Those with eyesight, once free from school or university, for the most part educate themselves, but sightless people must always be to a certain extent dependent on outside assistance of some kind. When every known method of helping the blind is exhausted, then new methods must be discovered. The eternal optimism of the blind must for ever teach those who wish to help them that to stay that help is no less ridiculous than putting a stop to scientific discovery and inventions, or bidding Nature to cease her infinite permutations.

The discovery of massage as a suitable profession for the blind was a far greater epoch-making event in the blind world than, at first thought, it appears to be. Let us quote a few words on Massage from the last annual report of the National Institute:—

"Perhaps there is no other profession in which blindness may be transformed from a handicap into an asset. The blind masseur appears to possess powers of concentration only acquired with exceeding difficulty by those with sight, while delicacy, sensitiveness and sureness of touch are developed by every action of his daily life. The Massage School of the Institute has succeeded in training many blind men and women not only to gain a livelihood, but to earn good incomes by absorbing work, which is a direct benefit to the world at large. This is not only a great achievement in itself, but it is worth its weight in gold as a practical demonstration of the powers that lie dormant in the community."

So here is a profession in which the blind can not only compete on equal terms, but can excel. Yet it took thousands of years to discover it!

As a spur to the optimism we are always emphasizing, the achievements of the blind masseur and masseuse are invaluable. Who knows what time-honoured profession may be lurking round the corner for the blind to grapple with and dominate? But it must not be imagined that every blind man or woman is a future masseur or masseuse.

The Education Committee have recently approved and adopted a series of rules, framed by the Massage Department, for guidance in accepting a massage student. Mental and medical reports on each candidate have to be

obtained and examined, and an examination as to general and special suitability for the profession has to be made. A concensus of opinion as to prospects from a minimum of six medical men in the candidate's area must also be forthcoming, and the home conditions inspected; and every student, having satisfactorily fulfilled these conditions, is only finally accepted on the result of a test examination after a probation period of one month.

It is, therefore, most satisfactory to know that in spite of such rigid and thorough rules of acceptance for training, there are 192 fully qualified blind men and women, trained at or under the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind, now practising massage.

The above system of careful selection must always be utilised in applying higher education or training. The Education Committee which should discover the way to a new profession or industry for the blind would be asking for trouble if they permitted haphazard applicants to make a mess of things. As in the sighted, so in the blind world—clergymen, writers, insurance agents and artisans are born and not made, and the duty of an Education Committee is not only to find the way to teach blind people to be clergymen, writers, insurance agents and artisans, but to find the right men for the right jobs. For instance, one or two incompetent blind masseurs might damn the whole profession.

As we propose to devote a complete article to the provision of manuscript text-books to blind students, we will not deal here with this phase of the Committee's work, but mention must be made of the financial grants to individual students.

Here again, the Committee is always face to face with a most difficult problem. Philanthropy, given a free course, would offer every ambitious blind person unlimited financial help. But lack of means is continually saying "Nay." Experiment with untested cases is too extravagant, and it is most difficult to form a true judgment from factors which are in all cases bound to be problematical. It says much, therefore, for the care and experience of the Committee to find that the majority of grants made are justified by the results. It should be noted that included amongst such grants made by the Education Committee are grants in respect to University training, education at Worcester College, Chorley Wood College, and training at the School of Massage, while special training grants have been recently recommended for those taking up the profession of music.

It may perhaps be possible at some future date to compile a list of educational grants and allocations made during recent years to individuals by the National Institute. We feel sure that a detailed examination of these figures would yield most satisfactory proofs to our readers that the National Institute is carrying on this side of its educational work on the broadest and most generous lines.

THE EDITOR.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to February 12th, 504 wireless sets and 707 headphones have been distributed among the blind.

As a result of the appeal, 330 wireless sets and 161 headphones have been received; of these 17 sets and 9 headphones have been given during the past month.

Donations from private sources and grants from the National Institute for the Blind have enabled the fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and the number distributed. In connection with this, the National Institute would be glad if Secretaries of County Associations would kindly communicate to them the total number of blind persons in their respective areas who are provided with wireless in their homes, also the number still requiring it.

A SCOTTISH STUDENT'S BRILLIANT RECORD

MR. WILLIAM NEILL, a student trained at the Royal Asylum and School for the Blind, Edinburgh, has recently taken the degree of Bachelor in Music at the University of Edinburgh.

He is 21 years of age and has had a distinguished scholastic career, having taken the diplomas of Associate and Fellow of the Royal College of Organists at the ages of 17 and 18 respectively, while at the same time reading for a degree in the Faculty of Arts in addition to that of Music.

The Rev. Dr. Burns, Chairman of the School directorate, affirms that there has never been a better record at the Edinburgh School for the Blind. We are sure that all hearts will go out to this young student in congratulation and in well-wishing. His Alma Mater has indeed reason to be very proud of him.

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

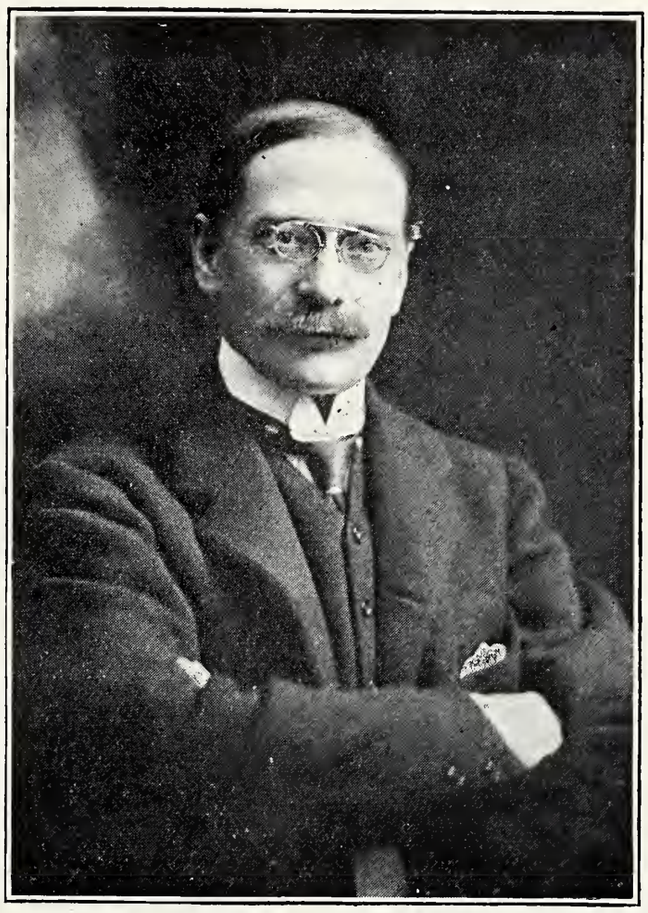
PETER MACINTYRE EVANS, M.A. (Oxon.), LL.D. (Hon.), Leeds, J.P.



LONDON can be said to claim as her own the subject of to-day's biography.

He was born no great distance from the sound of Bow bells, his work has for many years been connected with the Metropolis, and in it are centred most of his many activities.

It was in the City—the heart of the world Metropolis—that his present biographer found him at work, in the fine Hall of one of the twelve ancient City Companies—the Clothworkers—of which he is the Clerk.



Mr. P. M. Evans, m.a. (oxon.), ll.d. (hon.), leeds, j.p.

Mr. Peter Macintyre Evans, M.A. (Oxon.), LL.D. (Hon.), Leeds, J.P., is well known for his active interest in numberless educational and charitable institutions in London, and for his work in the blind community. He says that the "divinity that shaped his ends" was his oldest and dearest friend, and erstwhile chief, the late Sir Owen Roberts, who was Clerk to the Clothworkers' Company for over 40 years, and whose work for the Company and in other charitable and educational spheres was well known and appreciated in the City. Sir Owen Roberts was a contemporary and life-long friend of his father and mother, and it was on his suggestion that the subject of this biography, who was born at Forest Gate, Essex, was sent first to a small preparatory school at Winchester (1870-1873) and thence to Winchester College (1873-1878), passing on to New College, Oxford, as a "commoner." Here in 1882 he took his B.A. degree with Honours in Law, followed later by the M.A. degree. He was a hard-worker and, in his leisure hours, took the keenest interest in all manner of sport; as Hon. Secretary, he had a considerable hand in the formation of what is now the Oxford University Lawn Tennis Club. "When I was young," he told his interviewer, "I was a veritable 'jack-of-all-trades' as regards sport. I went in for them all—cricket, tennis, fives, football and the rest, football being the one in which I played a less inferior part." Later, hunting formed his chief sport, and to-day shooting and fishing afford him that recreation which is so necessary to the worker who would retain health of mind and body, without which the best work must needs deteriorate.

On leaving Oxford he became a member of the Inner Temple, and in 1884 passed his final examination for the Bar. He was not, however, called to the Bar, as he hesitated as regards his career; and in view of the possibility of seeking work in the Dominions beyond the seas, he decided to qualify as a solicitor before coming to a definite decision.

He thereupon became articled to Mr. Lewis John Berger (also an old Wykehamist) of the then firm of Wilde, Berger & Moore; and on his admission as a solicitor in 1888, after passing the final examination, he began to practise in that profession. For a few months after admission he acted as *locum tenens*, in the capacity of conveyancing clerk to the Mercers' Company, working under the Clerk, the late Sir John Watney. This association ripened into a lasting friendship, and some years later

he again became associated with Sir John Watney as Joint Hon. Secretary of the City and Guilds of London Institute.

On leaving the Mercers' Company he became Managing Clerk, on the conveyancing side, to the late Mr. G. M. Clements of Gresham House, whom he regarded as one of the ablest men in this profession, and in whose office he not only saw very varied and interesting work, but gained an experience which he found of lasting value.

He had always had a great desire to visit India; and on the death of his father in 1892, an opportunity occurred for a trip round the world with this object in view. He accordingly gave up business for the moment, and in 1893 started for his tour, crossing over to America in August of that year, and after visiting New York, Boston, Niagara and other places, arriving at Chicago where the World's Fair was in full swing. A bad crossing had, however, somewhat affected his health, and he was advised not to continue the journey across America, with the result that he very reluctantly returned home.

In December, 1893, he married Miss Ruth Emma Snow, daughter of the late Mr. F. A. Snow, of Snaresbrook, Essex. He then started work on his own account, until in 1895 he was appointed Clerk to the St. Dunstan's-in-the-East Educational Foundation, and later in the same year Clerk to the Sir John Cass Foundation. Four years later, in January, 1899, his talents and sound knowledge of affairs secured for him the post of Assistant Clerk to the Clothworkers' Company, and when Sir Owen Roberts retired in 1907, he was appointed Clerk to the Company—a position which he holds at the present day.

He has also succeeded his old friend in some of the other spheres of educational and charitable work with which the latter had for many years been associated.

A few words as to the origin and the activities of the Clothworkers' Company—one of the original twelve great City Guilds—with which Mr. Evans has so long been associated, may here not be amiss. Its ancient history is to be sought in that of the Tellarij, or Woollen Weavers, the Drapers, the Merchant Taylors, and other branches of the cloth manufacture. We hear of them in the reign of Edward IV, when, under the name of Shermen (Sheermen), they were separated from the Drapers and Taylors and incorporated under the title of the "Fraternity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Shermen of London." In 1528 the Shermen were united with the Fullers, the joint fraternity receiving the name of Clothworkers. The Clothworkers, as well as the Fullers and other trades connected with the fabrication of cloth, would appear to have sprung from the very ancient Guild of the Weavers. Samuel Pepys, the Diarist, was Master of the Clothworkers' Company in 1677, and a chaced silver loving-cup presented by him is one of the treasures preserved in the Hall in Mincing Lane. This Hall is on the site of the original Clothworkers' Hall, which was purchased by the Company of Sheermen in the reign of Henry VI (1459) for the constant possession of the Fellowship and their successors. The original Hall was destroyed by the Fire of London, having been distinguished on that occasion for being the utmost boundary of the conflagration—indeed, for having stopped it in a north-easterly direction. It was restored about the year 1708. The present Hall was inaugurated in 1860, when it was opened by H.R.H. The Prince Consort, in the presence of H.M. Queen Victoria.

Besides the care of their poorer members, the Clothworkers' Company have always been interested in charitable and educational movements. They make large grants to hospitals and similar institutions, as well as to other bodies doing work for the benefit of the public generally. They were one of the pioneers in the promotion of technical education, as well as of the higher education of women. In the past they have aided almost every technical institution in Great Britain, making them grants particularly in aid of their work in textiles, until they became rate-aided. Their contributions to the City and Guilds of London Institute, in the management of which they take active interest, amount to date to about £170,000.

They have further assisted the cloth-working industry by building, equipping and maintaining the Textile Industries and Colour Chemistry and Dyeing Departments of the University of Leeds, which has sprung from the old Yorkshire College of Science, their total expenditure aggregating so far to about £232,000. They have created scholarships for both men and women, tenable at Oxford, Cambridge, London, Leeds, and other Universities. They are the Governors of the Mary Datchelor Girls' School at Camberwell, now attended by 600 students and managed by a Committee on which the Company is largely represented.

The connection of the Company with work for the blind dates back as early as 1718, when they were appointed trustees of sundry charities created by Mr. John West, of Newbury, and his wife, Mrs. Frances West. Other benefactions for the blind followed, so that now the aggregate income from these trusts amounts to about £9,050 a year.

In 1908, on the retirement of the then Secretary, the late Mr. Pinder Simpson, of the Blind Man's Friend Charity, the Clothworkers' Company volunteered to carry out from their Hall, free of charge, the administrative work connected with this Trust, with Mr. Evans as Honorary Secretary. The annual income of this Trust is about £3,750. This Trust brought him into touch with another well-known worker in the cause of the Blind, Mr. Stuart Johnson, now Chairman of the Charity, whose generous help in more ways than one has been long and continuous.

Besides his post as Clerk to the Clothworkers' Company, Mr. Evans was, in 1915, appointed by the Council of King's College, London, to be their representative Trustee on the Central Governing Body of the City Parochial Foundation, and he is now Deputy Chairman of the Central Governing Body and Chairman of their Estates Committee. Much of his honorary work is connected with the Guilds of London, for he is Honorary Secretary of the City and Guilds of London Institute, a member of the delegacy of the City and Guilds Engineering College, and of the Executive Committee of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. Besides this, he is Joint Treasurer of the Royal Society of Arts, and a member of the Councils of Girton College, Cambridge, and Somerville College, Oxford. He is a member of numerous other governing bodies, including, amongst many others, the North-Western Polytechnic, the Whitechapel Art Gallery, the St.-Dunstan's-in-the-East Educational Foundation, the Aldgate Freedom Foundation, the Devas Institute, the Mitchell (City of London) Charity and Educational Foundation, the Central Council for District Nursing in London, and the Executive Committee of the Foundling Hospital, of which he is a Governor. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and his clubs include the Athenæum, Oxford and Cambridge, Bath and Ranelagh.

It was his work in connection with the administration of the Clothworkers' Pension Trusts for the Blind which first aroused Mr. Evans' interest in the blind community generally. This brought him into touch with Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and he made the acquaintance of Mr. H. J. Wilson, then Secretary, whose name is a household word in the blind world, and whose interest in the work which he did so much to promote is by no means abated. Soon his knowledge of the needs of the blind, and of legislation on their behalf, became so comprehensive that in November, 1917, he was appointed a member of the Ministry of Health Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, of which he is now Vice-Chairman. In the same year he became a member of the Central Council for the London Blind, appointed by the London County Council, and he is Chairman of that Council's Sub-Committee. In 1919 he was appointed Chairman of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Associations for the Blind, which is acting as agent for the London County Council in carrying out portions of their scheme formulated under the Blind Persons Act, 1920. He was also appointed Chairman of the Union of Counties' Associations for the Blind, succeeding Mr. Wilson in both these latter appointments. Amongst other activities in the blind world he is Chairman of the Governing Body of the National Blind Relief Society, which has been resuscitated and will shortly be adding to its pension list; Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Library for the Blind; a member of the Blind-Deaf Care Committee of the Royal Association for the Care of the Deaf and Dumb, and a member of the Committee of the Society for Granting Annuities to the Poor Adult Blind. He was formerly a member of the Standing Committee of the National Institute for the Blind, but had to resign his post owing to pressure of other work in 1924, when he was honoured by being appointed a Vice-President. He has lately rejoined the enlarged Council of the Institute as the representative of the Clothworkers' Company.

When asked to state his views on the position of the blind to-day, Mr. Evans said: "I am optimistic—entirely so. Much has been done during the past few years. Much is still being done, and all along the right lines. The Act of 1920 has given an enormous impetus to work on behalf of the blind, and when many of the schemes recently initiated by local authorities are in full operation, there should be a progressive improvement in their position.

Nowadays practically every blind person is being provided for, not only in infancy, but throughout his or her life. Education and training are provided by the local education authority, under the supervision of the Board of Education, training being sometimes provided even for those between 40 and 50 years of age. For those who are unable or do not desire to find places in a workshop, there are now Home Workers' Schemes which are playing a very important part in the work for the blind. Efforts are being made by the National Institute for the Blind to discover additional avenues of work suitable for blind persons; and no pains are being spared to secure this object. Equally important is the Home-Visiting Scheme providing for the visitation and after-care where necessary of blind persons, and with this may be included the encouragement of pastime occupations to which a great stimulus is being given. For a time the needs of the necessitous unemployable blind were somewhat overlooked, but this is being remedied by steps taken by local authorities, who in a number of cases are making grants for the purpose of supplementing the incomes of these persons.

" In London the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Associations for the Blind are administering the grant on behalf of the London County Council, and many blind persons have had their incomes supplemented from this source. The effect of these grants will be to relieve some of the pensions hitherto given to these cases as being the most needy, and will enable help to be given to those workers whose incomes are small but are not eligible for help from such a grant as last mentioned.

" Inquiries are on foot as to the need for Homes and Hostels, and it is hoped that any needs in this direction will be made good before long.

" It is very gratifying to see that the voluntary agencies are justifying the expectations formed of them by the Ministry of Health, and are rendering valuable assistance to the local authorities in the carrying out of their schemes."

He added: " I know of no more absorbing occupation than work on behalf of the blind. It is work that grows upon you, and the more you do the more is found for you to do: while difficulties only seem to stimulate your interest and enthusiasm. It is a great delight to be able to feel that you can be of some help to persons who are handicapped by loss of sight; and the expressions of gratitude, received on all sides, are ample compensation for the work entailed.

" Another attractive feature of the work is that it has brought me many friends both blind and sighted with whom it has been a pleasure to be associated, and to whom I owe a deep debt of gratitude for their loyal support.

" My only anxiety is to find younger persons to come and fill the places of those of us, who, like myself, have grown old in the service, and who must sooner or later be replaced.

" Finally, I should like to testify to the invaluable help and encouragement which I have received throughout, not only from Mr. Macgregor, whose transfer to another department of the Ministry was greatly regretted, but also from everyone else at the Ministry of Health. It has materially assisted all workers for the blind in carrying out the work referred to above."

As evidence of the advance made during the time of Mr. Evans' association with the Advisory Committee, it is worth pointing out that for the year ended March 31st, 1926, the additional amount of State and rate money made available for the blind of England and Wales was approximately £573,000, of which the sum of £341,000 represents the old age pensions payable to the blind at 50 under the provisions of the Blind Persons Act, 1920. At the same time the amount of voluntary collections and donations has risen from £378,000 in 1922-23 to £420,463 in 1924-25.

Mr. Evans' clear outlook, his quick grasp of men and affairs have been doubtless inspired by his wise choice of recreations. He devotes his week-ends to an outdoor life, and enjoys nothing better than a day's fishing or shooting with one of his favourite retrievers.

His work for the blind is characterised by his energetic support of any new ideas which he considers would benefit the blind community. He is a strong advocate for the unification of collections, considering it the least expensive and most practical method of raising funds for the cause. So strongly is he in favour of the scheme, to which he alludes as the " bee in his bonnet," that he has preached it at all times and has not rested until the idea has materialised.

It is in the hope that the National Institute for the Blind will be able to carry out the modified scheme submitted by the Advisory Committee that he has rejoined their body, hoping that he may be able to render them some assistance in what he realises is no easy task.

E. G.

THE SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE third report of the Scottish Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind has been issued recently. The report covers the period from the date of the Committee's appointment in January, 1925, to July, 1926, and is signed by Sir William Reid (Chairman) and the Rev. Thos. Burns, D.D. (Vice-Chairman) on behalf of the Committee which includes representatives of public authorities, voluntary agencies, and blind workers. The Advisory Committee was first set up in 1918 in accordance with the recommendation of the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, to advise the Scottish Board of Health on all matters relating to the care and supervision of the blind in Scotland. In that it deals with practically every important question affecting the interests of blind persons, the report is in effect a review of the problem of the care of the blind in Scotland and an account of what is at present being done.

The report states that there are 6,639 blind persons in Scotland on the Central Register kept by the Board of Health, which is an increase of 585 since the issue of their last report in 1924. The Committee explain that this increase in the number of registered blind persons is probably mainly due to the greater interest now taken in blind matters since Government grants were provided for voluntary agencies, and the responsibility for the welfare of the blind placed on local authorities. Of the total number of registered blind persons, 359 are under 16 years of age, and 2,835 are between the ages of 50 and 70. This latter group are eligible in respect of age for the blind pension, and the Committee estimate that 2,000 are now in receipt of the pension. The Committee record a gratifying decrease in the number of blind children both under five years of age and between the ages of five and sixteen, the number falling in the former case from 15 in 1924 to 11 in 1926, and in the latter from 384 in 1924 to 348 in 1926, and they state that this most satisfactory position " may be assumed to be due to some extent to the more energetic measures now adopted by local authorities for the prevention and treatment of disease." Employment is found in institutions for 925 blind persons, an increase of nearly 200 in the past two years. Approximately 62.7 of the total number of registered blind in Scotland are unemployable.

The sum of £83,902 has been paid by the State in the past seven years towards the maintenance of the services provided by voluntary agencies for the welfare of the blind in Scotland.

The report discusses and makes recommendations on such varied subjects as the technical training of the blind (including model arrangements for training and the period of training in bootmaking and repairing, an occupation lately introduced into Scotland), the provision of home work, home teachers (their duties and organisation), marriages between blind persons, and such groups as the employable, the unemployable, the mentally defective, the physically defective, the deaf blind, and the partially sighted.

In their model scheme of arrangements for technical training the Committee make recommendations in relation to such matters as the length of courses of training, the age of commencement, the assessment of capacity and the cost of maintenance during training. The Committee are of opinion that " there should be no age limit fixed beyond which training may not be commenced and that the determining factors should be the capability, aptitude, and fitness of the blind person to receive and benefit by a course of technical training." They also feel that " having regard to the powers of local authorities under the Blind Persons Act to meet the cost of maintenance during training, responsibility for such maintenance (wherever possible) should not devolve on parish councils."

On the question of the mentally defective blind, the Committee state that they are not satisfied that a total of 288 (or 43.4 per 1,000) blind persons either certified or certifiable as mental defectives by any means represents the true position. It is also their opinion that " mentally defective blind children, unless of low grade, could be better dealt with and educated in schools for the blind among pupils of a higher grade of intelligence than themselves than in certified institutions for mental defectives," and that " the segregation of the lower grade blind mental defectives was desirable."

In their conclusions on the question of marriages between blind persons, the Committee state that " while at present the transmission of blindness or other defect is reasonably suspected but lacks statistical support, marriages between blind persons are generally

undesirable and should be discouraged as much as possible."

Copies of the report may be had on application from H.M. Stationery Office, 120 George Street, Edinburgh (price, post free, 7d.).

PEARSON'S FRESH AIR FUND

THE 35th Annual Report of Pearson's Fresh Air Fund is a particularly interesting one. It starts with an appeal which is very happily expressed; alluding to the Children's Hour at 2LO in the afternoons, the writer of the report contrasts the happy recipients of the numberless birthday presents, to which attention is called every afternoon, with the pale-faced children of the slums for whom the Fresh Air Fund does so much.

Owing to the uncertainty created by the General Strike in May, followed by the continuance of the dispute in the coal industry, there was no formal opening of the 26th season. When it was possible to commence the outings the greater part of the summer had passed, with the result that, at the end of the season, the number of London children sent away for a fortnight was somewhat smaller than had been originally expected. Nevertheless, it was reported that 53,095 children were taken away for a day between the latter part of June and September. Of this number 30,835 went to Loughton in Epping Forest; 14,750 went to Hampton Court, and 7,500 were taken to various convenient spots. A happy holiday of a fortnight's duration was provided for 600 London children, who went to various seaside places. The local committees in the provincial towns arranged for the children to go to country places near at hand. In all 142,977 children were given a day's outing, whilst 3,280 had a fortnight's holiday.

Adding these figures to those dealt with since the inception of the Fresh Air Fund, the totals for the 35 years have been brought up to—*Day Outings*, 5,044,419; *Fortnights*, 84,101. If it were possible, says the report, to take these children all on one day, no fewer than 8,400 trains, each containing 600 children, would be required, and a further 140 trains would be necessary to transport the children away from their usual unpleasant surroundings for their happy fortnight.

It is difficult, says the report, when looking at the foregoing cold figures to understand the immensity of the task which has been performed, but they convey a better idea of the great work accomplished when it is realised that the number of children for whom a happy holiday has been provided is nearly four times that of the total population of New Zealand, and within 500,000 of the total population of the whole of Australia.

Contributions were received during the summer from all over the world, and through legacies the Fund benefited to the extent of £1,664.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

METROPOLITAN AND ADJACENT COUNTIES ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND, AND EASTERN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.

A JOINT Conference of secretaries, home teachers, representatives of local authorities, and others interested in and working on behalf of the welfare of the blind will be held (at the kind invitation of the Clothworkers' Company) at the Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, London, E.C., on Wednesday, March 16th, at 2.30 p.m., and Thursday, March 17th, 1927, at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

The sessions on these days will be devoted to papers and addresses, followed by discussions.

It is suggested that arrangements be made for those from the Provinces to visit some of the Institutions in and around London the following day, Friday, March 18th.

There is no fee for the Conference.

ORGANISING SECRETARIES:

Metropolitan—Miss Jones, 64 Denison House, 296 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1; Miss Thomas, Supervisor of Home Teachers, 49 Denison House, 296 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

Adjacent Counties—Miss Minter, 2 Dean's Yard, London, S.W.

Eastern Counties—Miss M. C. Tenney, 1a Bailgate, Lincoln.

A MEETING held at Derby Town Hall on February 2nd, augured well for the success of the exhibition and demonstration by blind workers to be given in the Central Hall on April 28th and 29th next. Mr. M. Priestley, superintendent and secretary of the Royal Midland Blind Institution, was in the chair. Detailed arrangements were made for the exhibition, which will demonstrate the skill of the blind, and will be the largest of its kind ever organised in Derby.

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)



N proceeding to ascertain the extent to which progress has been made during the period under review, it will be as well to apply certain infallible tests in order that the results of our previously-expressed opinions may thereby be properly confirmed.

The Blind Persons Act was the first decisive step taken legally to deal constructively with the claims of the adult blind. Prior to the year 1920 the Poor Law laid it down quite clearly that relief in various forms could be granted, and the expenditure undertaken by these authorities was generally liberal, and, most frequently, wisely bestowed. Were we criticising such arrangements, we would say that far too much money was expended in those days upon the unproductive dole and far too little upon what may properly be described as constructive expenditure designed to have a definite economic result.

Despite these apparent weaknesses, however, the agency of the Poor Law as applied to the adult blind was not unkindly bestowed, though the incidence of its administration was oftentimes weak and ineffective. Some of these authorities—notably, the Bradford Board of Guardians—were conspicuously generous in the arrangements made for assisting the blind, a position which they have well maintained to the present day. Special legislation was necessary, however, not merely to regularise certain practices that were common to some local authorities, but also to give definite legal sanction for the continuity of those practices, and generally to confer additional powers upon County and County Boroughs so that they might deal in a comprehensive and scientific way with the needs of all blind persons under their care.

In England and Wales there are 145 County and County Borough authorities upon whom these responsibilities devolve, and a sufficiently lengthy testing period has elapsed since the passing of the Blind Persons Act to enable us to judge impartially of the merits of the legislative sanctions entrusted to them.

We learn with interest that during the financial years 1921-2, 1922-3, 1923-4, 1924-5 and 1925-6, the following amounts of grant have been paid by the Ministry of Health in respect of services provided for the welfare of the blind :—£69,886 ; £75,445 ; £83,470 ; £94,970 ; and £103,994. These figures are exclusive of the sums expended in the provision of State pensions under Section 1 of the Act, and in this connection the following figures will doubtless be of interest. On March 31st, 1921, there were 7,826 blind persons in receipt of the pension, the annual charge being approximately £180,000 ; March 31st, 1922, the number of pensioners was 9,107, and the annual charge £225,000 ; March 31st, 1923, recipients of pension numbered 9,921, or an annual charge of £250,000. By March 31st, 1924, the number had reached 10,625, and the expenditure was approximately £265,000. In March, 1925, the number of pensioners was 12,024, and the expenditure about £300,000. Last year, the number of pensioners had increased to 13,663, and the expenditure had reached the not insignificant total of £340,000 a year.

If we turn for a moment to the expenditure incurred by local authorities on definite services to the blind community, the figures are not less instructive :—1921-2, £14,671 ; 1922-3, £47,106 ; 1923-4, £71,805 ; 1924-5, £102,910 ; 1925-6, £127,593. It must be understood in this connection that the foregoing figures are exclusive of the amounts expended by local education authorities and poor law agencies, which latter sums must be very considerable.

The writer has made a rough calculation of our national expenditure on all these services since 1921. It is not claimed that the figures are absolutely correct, and care has been exercised in submitting only such data as can be vouched for ; but it is certain that the figures, if anything, are understated. It must be borne in mind also that they include the following items and exclude the amounts expended on Poor Law Relief for which no reliable evidence is at present available :—Grants made by the Ministry of Health ; grants expended by County and County Borough authorities ; Board of Education expenditure and the administration of voluntary contributions, together with the State pensions and other annuities.

It is suggested that the various agencies enumerated above in 1921 expended approximately £510,000; 1922, £593,000; 1923, £647,000; 1924, £720,000; 1925, £783,000; and in 1926, £832,000.

By courtesy of officials at the Board of Education we are enabled to publish the following figures, which will throw some light on the work that is being undertaken educationally by the expenditure involved in 1926. It must be understood, also, that so far as the figures relate to the expenditure of local education authorities, they are approximate estimates only.

Elementary Education.	£
Board of Education expenditure by way of grants to voluntarily provided schools	1,609
Estimated expenditure of local education authorities on provision for blind children ..	177,000
Higher Education (Training of Blind in vocational courses).	
Board of Education expenditure by way of grants to voluntary institutions providing recognised courses	3,857
Estimated expenditure of local education authorities on provision made	63,000
Higher Education (Secondary School).	
Board of Education's grant to Worcester College	1,025

It will be generally conceded then that within recent years we have registered a degree of progress in welfare work on behalf of the blind which is almost inconceivable having regard to the severity of the economic depression through which the country has been passing. Whatever the critics may say to the contrary, the Blind Persons Act of 1920 is a landmark in our historical development which will continue to exercise a beneficent influence when all the unseemly jibes and misrepresentations will have been buried in the limbo of obscurity. If we use our privileges rightly, this simple Act of Parliament will prove to have been the keystone of our industrial freedom, and the intellectual liberty which we ought to prize most highly will thereby have been made possible for all who would enter the Promised Land.

The next article will deal with employment facilities and general wage conditions.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

AMONG the events worth recording in the month of December—held over from our last issue through lack of space—is the annual concert organised by the St. Albans' "Helpers of the Blind," under the capable leadership of Miss Olga Dickson. Miss Gwendoline Teagle and Mr. T. C. Sterndale Bennett were among those who gave their services, assisted by local artistes and members of the G.L.F. Concert Party. Mr. H. C. Frisby arranged an exhibition sale of articles made by Hertfordshire home workers.

Other successful concerts were held at Buckhurst Hill—where a fine meeting was held in the interval, presided over by Mr. E. Locks Latham—Tottenham, King's Langley and Whitefields Institute.

Concerts have also been given in the New Year at Dartford, Purfleet and Stoke Newington, while Mr. J. J. Delmage re-visited South Hackney to deliver his lecture-recital "In the Days of Goldsmith."

A new Circle of "Helpers of the Blind" was formed at Wealdstone on January 19th, followed by a concert by blind artistes, who also provided, with local artistes, the programme at the fine concert arranged by the Wandsworth "Helpers of the Blind." The Mayor, accompanied by the Mayoress, presided at what has become an annual event in Wandsworth; Councillor Charles Mills, who was Mayor when the Circle was formed, and Mrs. Mills, were also present, and the former urged the necessity for the work of the Fund. The Rev. Kennedy-Bell made a forcible appeal for a generous contribution in the collecting plate.

Hornchurch "Helpers of the Blind" organised a whist drive, and Romford an organ recital which was carried out by Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O.

Mr. H. C. Preece addressed no fewer than four Masonic lodges, in addition to speaking on many other occasions.

The Odsal House School for the Blind, Bradford, is to be converted into an open-air school, the numbers of blind children having decreased so greatly. The present temporary premises at Daisy Hill will be discontinued when the above conversion is completed.

THE BRISTOL CONFERENCE



ON February 2nd there was opened at Bristol a two days' Conference of the Western Counties' Association and the South Wales and Monmouthshire Association for the Blind, in co-operation with the Committee of the Royal Blind Asylum, Bristol. The opening Conference, which took place at the Royal Blind Asylum's Workshops, was attended by the Lord Mayor, who, in extending a welcome to the delegates, alluded to the improvements which had taken place in the condition of the blind of Bristol in recent years.

Sir Thomas Inskip, M.P., the Solicitor-General, paid a tribute to the contribution which the blind made to the corporate life, saying that they were, not flotsam and jetsam, but as indispensable as any others to national organisation and service.

Mr. W. H. Thurman, of the Ministry of Health, who read a paper on the After-Care of the Blind, laid stress on the improvements effected in that respect by means of Clause 2 of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, and on the responsibilities of training establishments, stating that there was uow no reason why any blind person should be left uncared for. He uttered a warning against training too many persons in one particular trade, and emphasised the point that more than one industry should be taught wherever possible. Workshops and Home Workers' schemes, he said, helped in no small degree to place the after-care of the blind on a satisfactory basis.

Mr. F. Richardson Cross contributed a paper on the Prevention of Blindness, in which he contended that we were behind the Americans in the precautions taken to protect eyesight. In industries, screens over the work, masks over the faces, suitable goggles, and even ordinary spectacles would do much to prevent loss of sight, and large works should have a first-aid outfit and employ a trained person to attend to minor eye injuries.

Mr. C. W. Stevens, General Manager of the Bristol Workshops for the Blind, who read a paper on "Registered Home Workers and Services rendered by Institutions," recalled that that day they had completed 134 years of work in Bristol for the welfare of the blind. He said that the future employment of a prospective home worker was a matter of real concern to all good technical schools, and great care should be taken that during the period of training the pupil should be given opportunity to acquire a practical knowledge of his trade and a general working insight into the numerous details. There were two main avenues for the employment of a trained blind man or woman :—That in a workshop for the blind was no doubt the best. The second was —for the best worker—a business of his own with, perhaps, a home in a country town or village. A third, and as yet little explored, avenue, was employment in a sighted factory or business at some simple repetition work. Street music and hawking should be entirely discouraged.

At the concluding session, which was held at the Royal School for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym, Mr. P. Gray, Principal of the School, read a paper on "The Education, Training and Employment of the Blind." Mr. Gray said the whole problem had undergone such sweeping changes during recent years, and so many well organised and well equipped agencies had been called into being to collaborate with the actual educational machinery, that the blind had been assisted in a manner which gave much encouragement to those who had been responsible for the improved conditions. Side by side with the 1920 Act there was the definite School Medical Service. Another great benefit the Education Act had conferred upon the blind was the granting of educational facilities from the age of two years in one of the recognised homes for the training and preliminary education of the blind baby. It had been found necessary to commence that form of baby management much earlier than the age of two years. Nothing very new had been added to the school curriculum for the educational age —five to sixteen years ; but the type of child had undergone a very fundamental change which called for a new method of treatment. Many myopic children would benefit considerably if they received instruction in ordinary reading and writing ; it seemed imperative that some use should be made of remaining sight to enable those children to do a little of their own educational equipment apart from the special methods directly necessary in the case of totally blind children. That modern type of education could only be undertaken by permission of the ophthalmic officer,

and periodical examination of the eyes would be necessary in order to estimate the effect which was being produced by use of the eye. Very careful thought had been given to the formation of classes for myopic and partially-sighted children, but in the City of Bristol the local Education Committee possessed its own Myopic School, hence no definite steps had been taken to form a department for those children belonging to county areas.

With regard to the training of the blind, Mr. Gray said that, with the limited choice of occupations at their disposal, much care must be exercised in considering the inclination of the individual child, and in endeavouring to arrange that opportunity might be afforded for remuneratively continuing such industry as a home occupation. It would be a distinct improvement when arrangements could be made for the introduction of a better educated type of instructor in charge of the technical departments of schools for training blind apprentices. The practical instruction was efficient, but the uplifting influence was generally lacking, so that the students were not sufficiently equipped for taking their proper place when the time came for them to be called upon to manage their own affairs.

The greatest problem which confronted all who were engaged in the training of the blind was their remunerative employment, that they might contribute as largely as possible to earn their own livelihoods and also obtain continuous work. It would be an advantage if, in the City of Bristol and elsewhere, an Employment Committee were formed which would endeavour to place all the trained young men and women who left the institution on the completion of the apprentice course. In that direction it was gratifying to report that three of the girls of that school were employed in Fry's Chocolate Factory, and seven young men were employed as piano tuners in the Stroud Piano Factory at Woodchester, near Stroud. If openings such as those were extended a little further, the problem of employment of the efficient blind apprentices would be satisfactorily solved, and the blind would benefit in every way by becoming workers in the ordinary walks of industry. One of the most important forms of training for which little or no provision was made in schools for the blind for girls was domestic science and house-craft.

A discussion ensued, during which the question of the advisability of teaching myopic children in a school for the blind was raised.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition

THE seventh meeting of the E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held at the National Library on Saturday, April 2nd.

Unseen passages will be read, and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression, as in the past.

Intending competitors should send in their names to the Secretary, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, as early as possible, in order that detailed arrangements for the competition may be made.

A silver cup has been presented by Lord Blanesburgh, Chairman of the Library Committee, which is to be held for one year by the winner of Class " A."

It is intended to divide the adult competitors into two classes :—

" A " Those who learnt Braille type before the age of 16.

" B " Those who learnt Braille type after the age of 16.

(The Class " B " winner of previous years to be eligible only for Class " A " this year.)

It should be explained that the standard of reading expected in this class is not so high as in Class " A." No contest will be held unless there are at least four competitors.

The junior competitors are also divided into two classes :—

1. Under 12 years of age.
2. Between the ages of 12 to 16.

A class for the reading of Esperanto will be held if sufficient entries are received, but there must be at least four competitors.

Competitors when sending in their names, should state in which class they are entering.

It will be remembered that the 1926 competition had to be cancelled owing to the transport strike, and it is hoped to have an extra number of competitors this year.

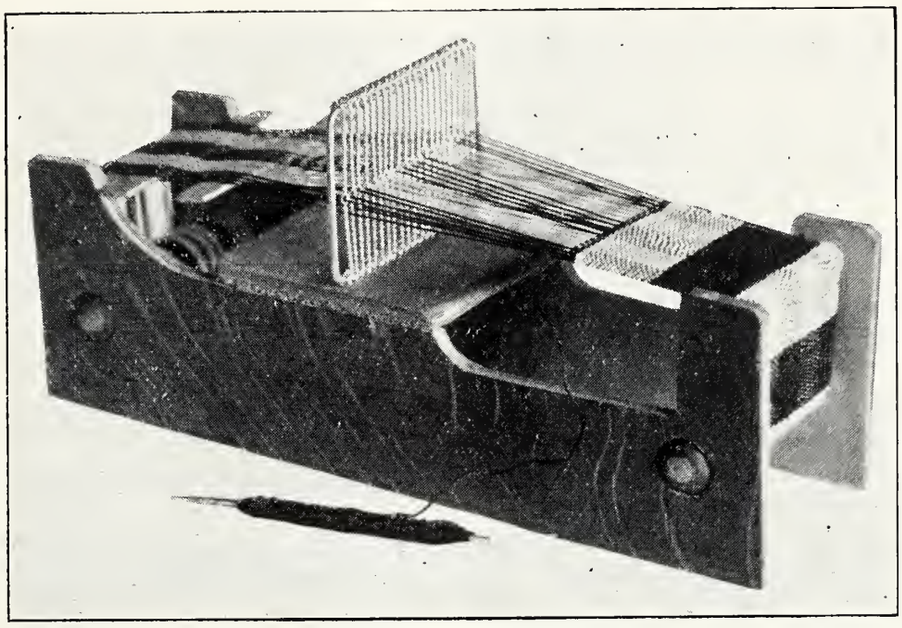
The Committee consists of : Stuart Johnson, Esq. ; Miss F. Buckton ; W. H. Dixson, Esq., M.A. ; E. Le Breton Martin, Esq. ; B. MacDonald, Esq. ; H. Royston, Esq. ; J. M. Rowley, Esq. ; H. G. Oke, Esq. (winner of 1925 competition) ; Miss D. A. Pain. Miss O. I. Prince (Secretary).

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

BRAID WEAVING



WEAVING is the art of interlacing two sets of threads: one set, known as the warp, running the length of the piece of cloth, and the other, called the weft, passing from side to side. The threads composing the warp must be stretched at an even tension on some kind of framework, this framework being known as a loom; and some arrangement must be provided for lifting certain threads of the warp—in simple weaving, alternate threads—to form a shed through which the weft thread is passed. This is effected by means of headles, one for each thread to be lifted, made of wire or string and having an eye in the centre through which the warp thread passes. The complete set of headles is fixed vertically in a headle frame, so that when the frame is raised, all the threads which have been passed through the eyes of the headles are raised with it, thus forming the shed. After a weft thread has been passed through this shed, it is necessary that the threads which have been lifted up should be depressed and those which are below be brought up to take the place of the others, in order that an alternate shed can be formed. In larger looms this is effected by means of a second headle frame, but for simple braid weaving the alternate shed can be formed in a simple way to be explained presently. It is further necessary that some means be provided for pressing the weft threads together so that the finished cloth shall be close and even. The warp threads, both during the preparation of the warp and also after it has been transferred to the loom, are kept from overlapping by an ingenious and perfect device common to every kind of loom weaving. This consists simply of two cross sticks, usually pieces of flat, smooth, hard wood threaded across the warp, so that one thread passes over No. 1 stick and under No. 2, the next thread goes under No. 1 and over No. 2, and so on, each two adjoining threads crossing each other between the two sticks. When the warp is in position on the loom, these two sticks, as close together as possible, are placed at the end of the loom farthest from the worker, and the nearer of the cross sticks can be used to form an alternate shed by being drawn forward and turned on edge. After a weft thread has been passed through the shed thus made, the stick is turned flat and pushed back to its original position.



Simple Home-Made Braid Loom.

Such, briefly, are the broad general principles which apply to all loom weaving and—resisting the temptation to pursue further the generalities of a fascinating subject—it may be said that the above essentials can be embodied in quite a simple and inexpensive apparatus capable of weaving real braids and other trimmings up to about six inches in width. Our main difficulty is the initial one of warping the loom, for which operation sighted assistance appears to be indispensable. In a simple board loom or other loom without rollers the putting on of the warp might well take as long as the actual weaving of the braid; a loom with rollers (one at one end to hold the unused warp, and the other at the other end on which the finished cloth is wound) is

therefore necessary. Such a loom will hold several yards of warp, and, once this has been put on, many hours of work will be possible with practically no assistance at all.

If the means are available, excellent braid looms can be obtained at prices ranging from £1 to £5. The "Thackeray" Weaver (17/6) supplied by Hobbies, Ltd., appears to be a satisfactory little loom except for the fact that it has no rollers; but it might be possible on this particular model for the worker to put on his own warp. Messrs. Cox supply a little loom in two sizes at 12/6 and 18/6 respectively, on the merits of which the writer is not in a position to give a first-hand opinion. The Dryad Handicrafts have a roller braid loom with 3½ inch wire headle frame at 6/6, and this probably represents the art of weaving reduced to its most simple form, if we except the little frames used in kindergarten work. In the Dryad loom the headle frame is suspended on the warp, alternate warp threads passing through the eyes in the centres of the headles, the remaining threads passing through the spaces between. One shed is formed by raising the headle frame, the opposite shed by pressing it down, and, although excellent work can be done on this simple apparatus by seeing people, it would probably be too uncertain for the sightless. But the wire headle frame (which is sold separately by the firm) could be utilised in the construction of a more reliable model embodying the principles set out above, and it could be produced at a cost of a few shillings by a local woodworker.

For passing the weft thread through the shed a bobbin is used. No elaborate device is necessary. For narrow braids a narrow strip of thin wood or stiff cardboard an inch or so longer than the width of the proposed braid is quite suitable, and for wider braids an ordinary wood or bone netting needle.

Regarding material, that for the warp should be stouter and more tightly twisted than that for the weft, the latter requiring to be softer and looser so that it can be pressed up tight. Good stout mercerised cotton for the warp, with somewhat thinner worsted for the weft, make an excellent combination; but threads of other material, such as silk or wool, can be used, providing the warp is strong and not likely to unravel.

Colour combinations can be arranged for by having different colours in the warp, in which case the colours will appear in lines running the length of the braid; bands of colour running from selvedge to selvedge can be obtained by using two or more shuttles wound with weft of different colours.

A. G. K.

OBITUARY

IT is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Meiklejon, whose work in connection with the education of the mentally defective blind is now so well known, as she was the co-founder of the home to assist this very needy class. For 23 years this home was the only one of its kind in the United Kingdom.

Mrs. Meiklejon, who was frequently to be seen at international conferences, was a woman of wide sympathies, and she was always deeply interested in all matters connected with the well-being of the blind.

The funeral service took place at Golders Green Crematorium on February 2nd, at 12; and her ashes have been laid to rest in the family grave at Hollington Church in the Woods, St. Leonards.

NEWS ITEMS

The purchase of Llwyneryr, Morriston, has been completed by the Swansea and South Wales Institution for the Blind.

Dr. Alfred Hollins, the gifted blind organist, who recently returned from a very successful tour in America, was accorded a most enthusiastic reception by a large audience at Clapton Park Congregational Church on February 1st, when he gave his annual organ and pianoforte recital, assisted by Miss Mary Hamlin (vocalist) and Mr. F. Heddon Bond, M.A., F.R.C.O. (accompanist).

Dr. Hollins opened the programme with a wonderful interpretation of Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor. This was followed by the prelude to Wagner's "Parsifal," played with a masterly touch.

One of the most delightful items was César Franck's Symphonic Variations for piano and orchestra—a favourite work of Dr. Hollins. In response to insistent demands for more, he played Listz's "Lieberstraum."

Dr. Hollins also gave an excellent improvisation on the organ, and others of his compositions which afforded great pleasure were the duet for piano and organ, "Polonaise Brilliante," with Mr. F. Heddon Bond at the piano, and the Concert Toccata.

NEW PUBLICATIONS (*continued*)

MOON BOOKS

2560-2567 "Glory of Clementina Wing," by W. J. Locke, 8 vols. (limited edition) .. .. .. per vol. 12 0

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

CLASSICS.

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
Horace, Works of (Trans.)	.. ..	4

LAW.

Cheshire, G. C.	Modern Law of Real Property ..	17

MISCELLANEOUS.

Davies, W. H.	Later Days	2

MODERN LANGUAGES.

Lucas, St. J. (Edited by).	Oxford Book of French Verse	6
Musset, A. de.	On ne Saurait Penser a Tout ..	1
Pelays, M. M. (Ed. by).	Las Cien Majores Poesias	3

PHILOSOPHY.

Fowler, T.	Locke	3

POETRY AND DRAMA.

Galsworthy, J.	Strife	1
Thomson, J.	City of Dreadful Night	1

POLITICAL SCIENCE.

Jacks, L. P.	Faith of a Worker	1
Morley, J.	Burke	3

SCIENCE.

Lampfert, R. G. K.	Weather Science	1
Warson, J. A. S.	Heredity	1

GUILD OF BLIND GARDENERS

A CONCERT in aid of the Guild of Blind Gardeners, organised by Mr. S. R. Atter and Miss Helen Bower, Asst. Hon. Secretary of the Guild, was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, London, on the 8th February and was very successful and largely attended.

Dame Madge Kendal, D.B.E., who was introduced by Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., made a spirited appeal for funds, to which a generous response was made.

The following artistes very kindly gave their services :—Mr. Albert Sammons, Miss Ottoline Walker, Miss Fifi Duncan, Mr. Geoffrey Ogg, Miss Mary Ogden, Mr. Gerald Moore, Miss Sherwin.

EXTRACT FROM ADVERTISEMENT.

"A Boon and Free Gift, the 'Hear-Easy' Rubber Headphone Pads, light, soft and comfy, shut out noises; one pair free to any Blind Broadcast Listener.

"Send 2d. stamp postage to Messrs. LESLIE DIXON AND Co., 218 Upper Thames Street, E.C.4."

There is a vacancy on the **Home Visiting Staff** of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Associations for the Blind, 49 Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1. Candidates must be between the ages of 25 and 45, and should apply by letter before March 12th to the Supervisor, giving name and address, qualifications, previous experience and date when free, and enclosing copies of two recent testimonials. Commencing salary, £2 10s. 0d. weekly. Experience in social work desirable.

WANTED—**Home Teacher (Woman).** Sighted or partially sighted, having experience in the work of looking after Blind Home Worker Machine Knitters. Knowledge of Pulp Cane Work also an advantage. Apply, stating age and salary required, to the Secretary, Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, Home Workers Dept., Edgbaston, Birmingham.

SUNDERLAND AND DURHAM COUNTY ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

23, 24 Villiers Street, Sunderland.

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

Applications are invited for the post of **Home Teacher,** male or female, blind or sighted, fully qualified, salary £156 per annum. The appointment to be terminable by one month's notice. Applications, with copies of three recent testimonials, to reach THE SECRETARY at the above address not later than 10th March, 1927.

GUILD OF BLIND GARDENERS.

(*Registered under the Blind Persons Act*, 1920)

Affiliated to the National Institute for the Blind.

Those interested in Gardening are invited to become Members of the Guild. The following are some of the benefits accruing thereto, viz.—

Tuition and Advice.

Seeds and Tools supplied at reduced prices.

Facilities to exhibit at various Annual Shows and compete for Prizes.

Any further particulars can be obtained from THE SECRETARY, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Progress.—The Riddle of the Earth—Introducing "A Tale of Two Cities"—Ants as a Factor in Human Life—A Dog in Disgrace—Sounds—Correspondence—Our Prize Competitions—Advertisements—Matters of the Moment—Our Broadcast Programme—Drums—A Well-Deserved Honour—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page: Le Repentir de Charlemagne (Contes et Légendes)—"Lunch for Two." Supplements: "Progress" Chess; Home Occupations for the Blind: Stocking Top; Baby's Bonnet; Very Narrow Lace. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—On Form and Style—The Genesis of Mrs. Gamp—"Old Jack's" Last Shift—An Impression of Lapland—At the Play (Poem)—Cambridge and Harvard—Maori Games—Village Registers—Reviews of Books—N.I.B. Braille Music Publications. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—China and the Chinese—The Drum's Discordant Sound (Poem)—The Boomerang—Handwork, No. 9: Making your own Crystal—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—London's Magic Names—Men who Find Water—When Man beat Nature—"Is" or "Are." Supplements: "Comrades" Announcements: Map of the Forth and Clyde. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Organs in Canada and U.S.A. (concluded)—Tuners' Column—Special Correction—Memory Tests—Notes and News Concerning the Blind—Sacred Cantatas and Oratorio Selections in N.I.B. Catalogue. Supplements: Braille Music Reviews. Insets: Organ: "Mountain Song" and "Nocturne," by Wolstenholme; Song: "Windy Nights," by Stanford. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Spastic Paralysis: Causes and Treatment—News in the Massage World—Books in the Massage Library—Section of Neurology and Psychology (continued). Supplements: "Massage Journal" Inset: Official Notices; Massage Examination; State Registration (continued). Announcements. (6d. per copy, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Moon Magazine.—Barbara Mary's Thousand-and-one Dreams—Accessories—A Monkey Bridge—Foreign Resting Places—Animal Centenarians. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 9s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—The Real Chinese (The Daily Express)—Important Notice—A Man from the Far North—Greatest "Sale" Ends (The Morning Post)—Talking Across the Atlantic (The Children's Newspaper)—Golden Fish (The Daily Mail)—A Coincidence of Three Continents—Gabriel Samara (Book I, Chapters VIII, IX), E. Phillips Oppenheim—Thought for the Month—The Chinese Baby's Ordeal—Down in the Sea—Kate Shelley's Bridge—Christmas Abroad—Bird Burglars. (1s. 8d. per month, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Football—News Items—The Poet's Corner—International Notes—Stageland—Favourite Quotations—Correspondence—Advertisements and General Notices—God has not Forgotten me—The Year 1920, and After. Supplements: Literary: "The After-dinner Art." Music: History of a Song: "Father O'Flynn," by A. B. Cooper; Song: "Doloroso," by M. Phillips. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

The Light Bringer.—From the Braille Room: Chain of Union: Chapter from "Thought-Power" on separate sheets—Theosophical Books from America: "Do we Shape our own Destiny?"—A Study in Consciousness II (Chapter VI), by Mrs. Besant—Thought-Power (Chapter III), by Mrs. Besant—The Significance of the Six Stages in Meditation—The Astral Elemental, by C. M. Codd—Astrology, by E. L. Foyster—Evolution, by E. W. Preston, M.Sc.—How I became a member of the Theosophical Society, by D. G. Williams—Changing the Past, by C. V. Maddocks.

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

All Advertisements should reach the Editor not later than the 20th of the month preceding that of publication.

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1927

MARCH

Vol. XI No. 123

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire. The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	ORGAN—		
7582	Choral Prelude, " From God will I not Stray," vol. 7, No. 56, by Bach (Bar by bar)	2	0
7583	Two Christmas Preludes : " In dulce Jubilo " and " The Holly and the Ivy," by Percy C. Buck (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7584	Voluntary in C, by Maurice Greene (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7585	Fantasy on " Babylon's Streams," by W. H. Harris (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7586	" West Wind," No. 4 of " The Four Winds," by Alec Rowley (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7587	Sketch No. 3 in F minor, Op. 58, by Schumann (arr. by J. E. West) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7588	Sketch No. 4 in D flat, Op. 58, by Schumann (arr. by J. E. West) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7589	" Mountain Song," by W. Wolstenholme (Bar by bar)	2	0
7590	" Nocturne," by W. Wolstenholme (Bar by bar)	2	0
	PIANO—		
7591	London College of Music. Preparatory Manual, Book 3, containing Scales, Studies and Piece, edited by G. Augustus Holmes and Frederick J. Karn (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7592	" L'Extase d'Amour," by Percy Elliott (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7593	Contrasts, No. 1 : " Leggiero " and " Pesante," by H. Farjeon (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7594	Sonata in C sharp minor, by Haydn (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7595	" Clydeside Reel," by Kennedy Fraser (arr. by), (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7596	" Bells across the Meadows," by A. W. Ketélbey (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7597	" Hark ! Hark ! the Lark," by Schubert-Liszt (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7598	Trois Morceaux : " Etude," " Prelude," " Reverie," Op 49, by Scriabine (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	DANCE—		
7599	" Do you Forget ? " Waltz-Song, by Reg. Batten (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7600	" Lonesome and Sorry," Song Fox-Trot, by Davis and Conrad (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7601	" When it's Twilight on Missouri," Waltz-Song, by Jack, Vincent and Herbert (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7602	" While the Sahara Sleeps," Song Fox-Trot, by H. Nicholls (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7603	" Lovelight," Valse Intermezzo, by G. F. Tomlinson (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
7604	" Good Fellows, be Merry," from the " Peasant Cantata," by Bach (A : Compass A, to E′), pocket size	2	0
7605	" Leanin'," by T. C. Sterndale Bennett (F : Compass B, natural to D′), pocket size	2	0
7606	The Happy Book of Rhymes and Rhythms (Songs and Games), by Carol Bottle, pocket size	3	11
7607	" The Land o' the Leal," by Clutsam (arr. by), (A flat : Compass C to F′), pocket size	2	0
7608	" Hiawatha's Vision," from the " Song of Hiawatha," by Coleridge-Taylor (Compass B, flat to F′)	2	1
7609	" Slow, Horses, Slow," by Armstrong Gibbs (A minor : Compass D to E′), pocket size	2	0
7610	" Farewell, ye Limpid Streams," Recit. and Air from " Jephtha," by Handel (E : Compass D to G′ natural), pocket size	2	0
7611	" Pack-and-Penny Day," by Martin Easthope (D : Compass D to E′), pocket size	2	0
7612	" Poor Man's Garden," by Kennedy Russell (E flat : Compass C to F′), pocket size	2	0
7613	" Windy Nights," by Stanford (D minor : Compass D to F′)	2	0
	DUETS—		
7614	" Come Round the Farm " (Humorous), by N. Grant and S. Kirby, pocket size	2	0
7615	" The Voyagers " (Tenor and Soprano) by W. Sanderson	2	0

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

	RELIGIOUS—		
5731-5734	Jeremiah and Lamentations (Authorised Version) 4 vols.	per vol.	3 8
	SCIENCE—		
7455, 7456	All about your Wireless Set (with Diagrams), by Captain P. P. Eckersley, M.I.E.E., 2 vols.	per vol.	9 9
	VOCATIONAL—		
7070	The Blind in Industry, by Ben Purse		9 0

LETTERPRESS

7071	The Blind in Industry, by Ben Purse		9 0

(Continued on page 3 of cover)

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XI.—NO. 122. FEBRUARY, 1927. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

EMBOSSED PUBLICATIONS—II



THIS month we deal with the final division of our brief analysis of the work of the Publications Committee of the National Institute for the Blind, viz. :—

7. THE SELECTION OF BOOKS.

The selection of books to be transliterated into Braille or Moon type is by no means an easy task. Faced with the formidable mass of the world's entire literary production, the judgment of any selector of the world's best books is liable to be so dazzled by the splendour of the array that, rather than blindly pick a volume from here and there, it relies upon three recognised guides : personal taste, the taste of the leading critics and *vox populi*. As far as *best* books are concerned, these three guides are useful to a point; but each has a favourite little pitfall of its own, into which it invariably seeks to entice a too fervid follower. Personal taste can never free itself entirely from the charm of association ; the best of leading critics may reveal his humanity by an occasional touch of spiteful malignity ; while the voice of the people is sometimes but an unholy echo of a strident publicity. Few of us have resisted the delicate pleasure of chuckling cynically over Somebody's Hundred Best Books, or coldly deleting a ghastly item in " Books that have made me what I am "—and consequently (sic) great ! Big critics have little critics upon their backs to bite 'em, and little critics, lesser critics, and so *ad infinitum*.

So far, *best* books. But the blind are only human, and, being a world within a world, their taste is not always directed by superlatives. In a previous article we endeavoured to show that the blind should be provided with books of every type—not only classics that we can diffidently respect, but human documents that we can passionately love. Otherwise, the alliance between a blind man and his books may be at best but a *mariage de convenance* liable to be torn asunder by the merest flicker of a flaunting novelette.

Yet there is no reason why the chosen representative of each type of book should not be the *most* representative, and therefore, comparatively speaking, a praiseworthy book. As the production of embossed literature is a costly business, it is most unlikely that Braille production will ever equal in extent even one per cent. of ink-print production. Some selection must therefore be made by somebody, and that body, as far as the National Institute is concerned, is the Publications Committee, composed of men and women, some of whom are blind themselves, and all of whom are in constant touch and understanding with the blind world.

Of course, blind people, being healthy and normal, always want more than they can get. They themselves will be the first to recognise the fact, and also that some of their needs in the way of literature are scarcely dictated by the most correct literary taste. Therefore, seeing that it is a financial impossibility to meet all needs, the Committee discards the less reputable, and endeavours to select books of all types which are in constant demand by the majority of blind readers, but which, in addition, possess the greatest amount of literary

distinction applicable to each respective type.

The Committee's selection is consequently not made haphazardly. Every book brought before the Committee is reported upon by someone who has read the book, and whenever doubtful points arise, advice is sought from literary experts or the distinguished men of letters serving on the Literature Consultative Committee (named last month). For instance, no one but a classical scholar can give a correct judgment as to the fidelity of a translation from Greek or Latin ; no one but a practical scientist can choose between two technical works on a scientific subject ; no one but a professional medical man can decide on the merits of a medical work. The selection of general literature has less sure guides. Here lie the pitfalls mentioned above. But when men have been selecting books for years the danger of such pitfalls is minimised. The Committee is fortunately free from the natural desire of the publisher to make money ; there are no axes to grind and no sensitive " littery gents " to conciliate ; one member can afford to sacrifice his predilections before the voice of the many ; letters from blind people all over the world afford useful guide-posts ; and the views of critics can always be critically reviewed.

But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. So let us examine some of the lists of books passed by the Committee during the last year, and see whether their task has been adequately fulfilled.

" Fabulae Heroicae " and " Liviana "—two Latin readers—an excellent beginning to any list of books, not perhaps exciting reading, but emphasising the service rendered to all culture by classic training. Then we jump 2,000 years, and have " Georgian Stories, 1922," and " Best Short Stories of 1924," followed by some typical favourites in fiction—" She " with its irresistible attraction to the eternally youthful ; " Preston John," by John Buchan, one of the best living writers of adventure stories ; " The Broad Highway," a good example of the modern sentimental picaresque ; " The Challenge to Sirius," a brilliant example of the work of one of our greatest women novelists. Then we have Stevenson's fine story of the Southern Seas, " The Ebb Tide " ; " The Justice of the Duke," by Sabatini, the foremost writer nowadays of the romantic-historical novel ; and Harrison Ainsworth's " Guy Fawkes," a good example of the same school when it stepped into the breach left vacant by the death of its great founder, Sir Walter Scott. Meredith and Henry James are represented by " The Tale of Chloe " and " The Lesson of the Master " ; Trollope by " The Warden " ; Herman Melville by his wonderful sea epics of " Typee " and " Moby Dick " ; and the great and magniloquent Dumas by " Twenty Years After." Tolstoy's " Kreutzer Sonata " gives us something from Russia ; Hémon's " Marie Chapdelaine " brings us the latest intellectual offspring of that strange remnant of a past glory—French Canada.

These do not exhaust all the items of fiction in one list alone, but they serve to show how wide and varied is the choice. Let us take the subsidiary list of books written quite recently on subjects of the day. We have Lord Grey's " Memoirs," perhaps the most sincere and illuminating of the multitudinous war books ; Ward Price's popular account of the world tour of the Prince of Wales ; Lowell's " With Lawrence in Arabia," revealing one of the most remarkable personalities of the Great War.

In the list under review there happens to be a preponderance of fiction, but literary criticism is represented by Quiller Couch's " Studies of Charles Dickens and Other Eminent Victorians " ; fantasy by George Macdonald's " The Princess and the Goblin " ; drama by Congreve's " The Way of the World " ; economics by Cannan's " Wealth." An interesting item is an addition to what are termed Vocational Works—" The Blind in Industry," by Ben Purse, a recognised authority on the subject.

The Committee's next list concentrates far more on classics. " Selected Plutarch's Lives," from the wonderfully vivid and breezy translation made by that typical Elizabethan, Sir Thomas North—a man who, himself worthy of a Plutarch, armed as the Armada came up the Channel—and " Selected Voyages of Hakluyt " are two items which must thrill any genuine lover of golden books undimmed by age's dust. And perhaps it is as well to mention here that the term " Selected " does not in any sense imply expurgation. The blind reader whole-heartedly abhors Bowdler and all his works, and the Committee make no attempt to " edit " a book. A book, once chosen, is given in its entirety, save perhaps for the occasional omission or alteration of a reference to the index or an illustration not possible of reproduction in Braille. But it should be noted that whenever possible diagrams and maps in a text are reproduced, and it must be admitted that the methods of reproduction have

very considerably improved since the days of experiment when the writer showed one of the first attempts at an embossed Eleanor's Cross to a soldier who had recently lost his sight in the war. " Can you tell me what *that* is ? " was the anxious question. " Why, yes," came the ready response, with a smile of ripe understanding, " Sure, it's a Jacobean bedstead." The rest is silence.

To return to our list. " Dialogues of Plato," " Moral Discourses of Epictetus," Sir Thomas More's " Utopia " show a catholic taste; and two living thinkers, J. B. Bury and Maeterlinck, are well represented by a " History of the Freedom of Thought " and " Wisdom and Destiny." Here is that wonderful example of all that a short biography should be—Mrs. Gaskell's fascinating "Life of Charlotte Bronte." "The Letters of Walter Page"—how delightful, these !—seem very friendly beside Montaigne, and at their heels follow " Sartor Resartus," H. P. Collins on " Modern Poetry," and last but not least, some " Light Articles Only," from *Punch*. Then a host of old favourites, most worthy to be rehabilitated in order to lord it over many tip-toeing examples of the most modish literary conceit—Hugo's " Hunchback of Notre Dame," Scott's " Guy Mannering," Lytton's " Harold," Wilkie Collins' " Moonstone," Kingsley's " Hypatia."

In this and succeeding lists poetry is well represented by Milton's " Paradise Lost," selected poems of Rupert Brooke, Spenser's " Epithilamion," Christina Rossetti's " Goblin Market," and poems by John Freeman, Robert Bridges, Edward Thomas, Andrew Lang, Edmund Gosse, Mrs. Meynell, Andrew Marvell and Walter de la Mare.

Educational works include " Human Geography," a revised English grammar, " Extracts from French Composition," " French Unseens," and books on précis-writing and phonetics.

Here are some historical gems : Defoe's " Memoirs of a Cavalier," Parkman's thrilling account of the early Jesuit missions in Canada, Breasted's " Conquest of Civilisation " ; followed by some further books of the day : Baldwin's " On England," Dean Inge's " Outspoken Essays," Dr. Barry's " Memoirs and Opinions." And, by no means abashed in such grave company, some really excellent thrillers— " The Cask," " The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," " The Green Archer," " The Stolen Budget," " The Red House Mystery," etc.— these providing the blind with food for that love of the unusual which makes so many strangers kin.

An interesting series of books is that devoted to scientific text-books, published with the assistance of the Embossed Scientific Books Fund, founded by Mr. H. M. Taylor. The latest addition is Bertrand Russell's " A.B.C. of Atoms."

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that in the case of every book transliterated into Braille by the National Institute since the inauguration of its publishing department, the author and the publisher have granted permission to reproduce each work entirely free of all charge or right to royalty.

We could wander for hours through these fascinating lists, each one conjuring up immortal ghosts which even fashion and hypercriticism can never lay. Sherlock Holmes, Samuel Pepys, the Forsytes, Handy Andy, Uncle Remus, Jo and Meg, Ravenshoe, Father Brown, Sylvie and Bruno, Chesterfield, Dr. Johnson, Sylvestre Bonnard—all, whether born in the flesh or compact of such stuff as dreams are made of—all are there to talk and smile and weep and ruminate at the magic touch of a blind man's fingers.

We have scarcely touched upon many other most interesting items in the lists of books chosen by the Publications Committee, such as Braille instructional books, handbooks for teachers, books in graded Braille, etc., but it may be possible to deal with these items and the valuable collections of manuscript Braille books in the Institute's Students' and Massage Libraries in future articles. Sufficient here to say that we believe our readers will fully endorse our opinion that the Publications Committee is fulfilling its difficult and onerous work in a manner calculated not only to be of great present value, but of inestimable future value, to the blind world. THE EDITOR.

A WELL-DESERVED HONOUR

WE offer our heartiest congratulations to Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., C.B.E., who in the New Year honours has been created a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Our readers will cordially welcome this recognition of the efforts so unsparingly put forth on behalf of the blind by the Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, and will join us in wishing him many long years in which to continue his labours.

"OUR" BROADCAST PROGRAMME

THE joy which Wireless has afforded to the blind has frequently been stressed in our own and in the general Press. More than ever was the fact brought home to us on the evening of January 12th, when from 9.15 until 11 p.m. a committee of blind members of the staff of the National Institute for the Blind were responsible for the selection of a programme which, it is hoped, was as much enjoyed by the vast audience as by those who chose the items.

In a preliminary "talk" Mr. H. C. Preece, Joint Organising Secretary of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, told his listeners the origin and purpose of that night's programme. "One of the objects of the B.B.C." he said, "is to enable the many groups that constitute modern society to understand each other better. To enable you to understand the world in which the blind have their being, they asked the National Institute for the Blind to arrange for a number of sightless members of its staff to draw up a varied programme indicative of their own tastes, and representing (as far as possible) the taste of the blind community.

"The B.B.C. are giving the programme as selected, and they trust it will meet with your approval and that it will stir your imagination and quicken your sympathies for the blind so that, drawn together by a common interest, those with or without sight may better understand one another. In the enchanted world of wireless, sight is no longer essential, and imagination bodies forth the beauty and form of things unseen. For imagination is the key that unlocks the gates of darkness so that the light of literature, art and science may come streaming in.

"Imagine a blind man uneducated, without culture, standing alone in the heart of London. What to him are the splendours of Westminster or the dignities of Whitehall? But train his mind in the knowledge of history, cultivate his tastes, stimulate his imagination, make him feel that he is a vital part and not a spare part, and then even a blind man, alone at Westminster, will realise that he stands before the cradle of his race and that his feet are on the hearthstone of Empire. Let this programme be to you an outward expression of the world of imagination that broadcasting means to the blind. Think of the long lonely hours to which so many blind men and women were condemned before the days of broadcasting. Think to-night that there are hundreds of them sitting alone, whose imagination through music, literature and science will revel in worlds of truth and beauty.

"Having shown you our imaginative world, let me ask you no longer to look upon the blind as objects of compassion but as opportunities for service. Let me gratefully thank the B.B.C. for using this programme as an opportunity for such service, and let me assure the Corporation that wireless to the blind is a 'magic casement opening on the foam of perilous seas in fairy lands forlorn.'"

The programme was as follows :—

1. THE KUTCHER STRING QUARTET—
   First movement of Rasoumovsky Quartet, Op. 59, No. 3 in C (*Beethoven*)
2. LEONARD GOWINGS (Tenor)—
   "Ah! Moon of my delight" (*Liza Lehmann*)
   "Love-lilt" (Hebridean Folk-Song) (*Kennedy-Fraser*)
3. DESMOND MACCARTHY—
   Review of "David Copperfield"
4. THE QUARTET—
   "Sally in our Alley," "Cherry Ripe" (*Frank Bridge*)
5. CHARLES WREFORD (Dialect Story)—
   "Our Fire Brigade" (*Fred Rome*)
6. HILDA DEDERICH (Pianoforte)—
   Intermezzo: B flat minor, Op. 117; C major, Op. 119 (*Brahms*)
   Sea Pieces: "From a wandering Iceberg," "Nautilus," "Song" (*MacDowell*)
7. SCIENTIFIC TALK—
   "Wireless Waves"
8. LEONARD GOWINGS—
   "Onaway, awake, beloved!" (from "Hiawatha") (*Coleridge Taylor*)
   "Linden Lea" (*Vaughan Williams*)
9. CHARLES WREFORD—
   "Electric Light Scheme" (*Jan Stewer*)
   "Widdicombe Fair" (*Traditional*)
10. ERNEST WELLBELOVED—
    Dramatic representations
11. THE KUTCHER STRING QUARTET—
    String Quartet (*Balfour Gardiner*)

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to January 11th, 431 wireless sets and 628 headphones have been distributed among the blind.

As a result of the appeal, 313 wireless sets and 152 headphones have been received; of these 75 sets and 41 headphones have been given during the past month.

Donations from private sources and grants from the National Institute for the Blind have enabled the fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and the number distributed.

PERSONALITIES

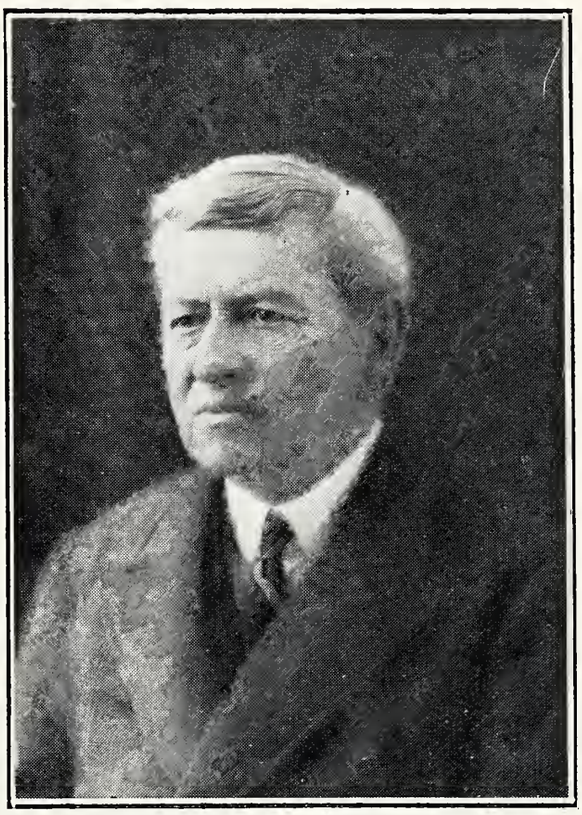
IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

SIR ROBERT ELLIS CUNLIFFE, M.A.



THE subject of our present memoir has long been associated with work among the blind.

Sir Ellis Cunliffe comes of an old Lancashire family. He was born in London in January, 1858. His father was Robert Cunliffe, a well-known London solicitor, President of the Incorporated Law Society in 1890, while his grandfather was a Solicitor of note in Manchester. His mother was Laetitia Williams, third daughter of the Venerable John Williams, Archdeacon of Cardigan, a scholar and writer of repute. He was the first Rector of the Edinburgh Academy and an intimate friend of Sir Walter Scott. When Scott died in 1832 John Williams read the burial service over his remains in Dryburgh Abbey. Except for a short interval of time, he continued Rector for 22 years, and, when he left, became the first Warden of Llandovery College. Sir Ellis' elder son is a Judge of the High Court of Burma.



Sir Robert Ellis Cunliffe, M.A.

Sir Ellis Cunliffe was educated at Bradfield College—1868-1876 (boys went to public schools early then), and from there matriculated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, taking his B.A. degree in 1880, and, having taken Honours in Moderations and Greats, he proceeded to his M.A. degree later, in 1900.

On leaving Oxford, Sir Ellis Cunliffe was articled to a member of his father's firm and was admitted a Solicitor in 1884, shortly afterwards joining the firm then known as Cunliffes and Davenport. In 1885 he married Clementina, third daughter of Dr. Richard Cockerton of Cornwall Gardens, South Kensington. While with the firm of Cunliffes and Davenport, he had an all-round varied legal practice, including the administration of many continuing trusts, and from 1894/96 was an Assistant Examiner of the Incorporated Law Society for the Intermediate examinations, and from 1897/1900 for the Final examinations.

In April, 1900, he became the Solicitor to the Board of Trade (which involved giving up private practice), and occupied that post for 20 years. He served under many presidents, some of whom were the late Lord Ritchie of Dundee (who appointed him), Mr. Gerald Balfour, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. John Burns, and Mr. Runciman, and he also worked under the late Mr. Bonar Law, who was for a time Parliamentary Secretary to the Board.

How the work of the Board increased during that period is well known, and the further expansion of its responsibilities, from the commencement of the War onwards, is also a matter of common knowledge. A leading shipping paper (in an article on the Board of Trade, its origin, history and present-day functions, published in an issue early in 1920), after recapitulating the work and duties of the Board and of its various departments and sub-departments, summarised the position of the legal department in the following terms :—" Indeed, the legal department of the Board of Trade has surely the most ramified and minute duties that were ever assigned to any body of legal men."

In 1911, Sir Ellis Cunliffe was Knighted—this event rather happily synchronising with the year of his silver wedding.

In April, 1920, he retired from the Board of Trade. Twenty years spent in the public service necessarily bring back many interesting

reminiscences, and there are some mementoes in Sir Ellis Cunliffe's library to which he is particularly attached. One is a small model of a steam trawler, with the following inscription on a silver plate attached thereto :—

"The North Sea Incident, Oct., 1904,
Model of the Sunk Steam Trawler
THE CRANE,
Presented to R. Ellis Cunliffe
by Messrs. Kelsall Bros. and Beeching, Ltd.
A Souvenir of the Hull and Paris Commissions;"

the other, a complete edition of Kipling's works given him, on leaving, by his colleagues.

But we must now return to the particular subject matter of this memoir: Sir Ellis Cunliffe's work among the blind; and we have asked him to tell his story on this head in his own way.

"The greater part of my earlier work among the blind was connected with the Kensington Institute for the Blind, and any account of that work necessarily involves the history of that Institute and references to co-workers for it.

"The Kensington Institute for the Blind, which in 1903 became known as the West London Workshops for the Blind (being a title more accurately describing the scope of its work and the area it serves), was founded in December, 1880 (it was a reorganisation by a Mrs. Arthur Cohen of a smaller institution started in Notting Hill in 1876), for the purpose of finding employment for the industrial blind and of providing the unskilled blind with instruction in brush and basket making. Among many other names on the original Committee were those of the late Dr. Richard Cockerton, the late Alderson Berthon, Esq., and that of Miss Florence Gladstone (sister-in-law of the Rt. Hon. Ramsay MacDonald). Premises were taken in Church Court and Young Street, Kensington, and in 1886 the Institute removed to 19 Ball Street, Kensington.

"In 1882 my wife, then Miss Clementina Cockerton, joined the Committee, continuing thereon till 1885 (when we were married), and re-joining in 1888. From that year till 1891, when I also became a member of the Committee, my wife and other members of the Committee consulted with me from time to time in regard to the work of the Institute, so that it is now approaching 40 years since I began to take an interest in work affecting blind people.

"The Institute, in a quiet way, did good work; but through the deaths of many of the original founders, the closing of the brush shop as quite unremunerative, and from various other reasons, the majority of the then Committee decided in 1894 to wind up the concern as on the 31st July in that year, the number of blind workers then employed being 15.

"But somehow we could not find it in our hearts to let the people go; and so with one other member of the Committee (a kindly Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Robert Milne) we decided to take the concern over to prevent it being closed down. Loans which had accumulated were generously written off, and though we took the Institute over under bare poles it was pretty nearly free from debt. At the end of 1895, the number of our blind workpeople had risen to 26, and we had a credit balance of £84 at the bank.

"A new Committee with new Patrons was got together, and efforts were made to increase our subscription and donation lists. I became Chairman of this new Committee, and thence-forward continued to act as such. Our manager, Mr. Henry Smith, who came to us from Scotland in 1885, has given us loyal, efficient and sympathetic work ever since, assisted therein by his wife and daughter, while his sister, Miss Mary Smith (who acted as our saleswoman and assistant manageress of our women workers), joined us in 1881, and continued her invaluable work for our workers and the Institute till her death in 1922.

"In June, 1895, the Institute was removed (under a 21 years' lease) to 60 High Street, Notting Hill Gate, being one half of one of the old-fashioned houses built in 1790 which are still standing there almost opposite Church Street and the Metropolitan Railway Station. It was at one time occupied by Madam Vestris. It has a long garden in the rear in which we later erected a large shed for our basket-makers and a smaller one for our wood-choppers. The place is probably well known to passers-by.

"In 1900 the number of our blind work-people rose to over 40; and from thence-forward, down to the present time, the yearly average of those employed, being blind or partially blind, approximated to 40—basket-makers, wood-choppers, chair caners and porters.

"The full story of the Institute is to be found in the yearly reports issued. We had our ups and downs, our times of anxiety and of jubilation. It was, from one point of view, a continuing struggle to keep going and to

raise money for our weekly purchases of materials, for wages, salaries, and for rent, repairs and outgoings, as we were without any permanent endowment. We had few legacies, but always the kindly support of Gardner's Trust and the heartening sympathy of Mr. H. J. Wilson, the Secretary, and received several welcome grants from City Companies. Many of the old Committee continued their financial support, and the names of the late Sir Donald Currie, the late Mrs. Clementina Cockerton, the Messrs. Clark, and the late Mrs. Alexander are those of generous supporters ; while Messrs. Jackson, Pixley and Co. audited our yearly accounts free of charge, and many ladies and gentlemen acted as daily readers to our blind workpeople, or otherwise entertained them.

" Of our own number, Mrs. Gilbert Kennedy (wife of the late Metropolitan Magistrate) was a veritable fairy Godmother. She had a unique power of raising money for us by her own efforts when we most needed it. Mr. W. E. Tyer (who in 1901 became our Hon. Treasurer) was a never-failing source of strength, and he and his Wife were invaluable in their almost daily help throughout ; while Mr. F. H. Stone was a constant visitor reader and kindly adviser to our workers. I might give many other names, but owing to the exigencies of space must close the list with the Latin tag :—

" Cum multis aliis quos nunc perscribere longum est."

An informal surprise visit from Their Majesties, then the Prince and Princess of Wales, to the workshops in April, 1909—followed by generous donations and orders, and their Patronage of a dance given shortly afterwards—put new heart into us. Mr. Alan Burgoyne, M.P., of whom mention will be made again later, joined our Committee in 1910. In 1911 we were the recipients of a legacy of £2,000 under the will of Mr. Henry Silver, a client of our Hon. Treasurer (a generous anonymous helper in his lifetime of many institutions and persons) and, in addition, the legacy duty thereon was discharged by the kindness of the residuary legatees. This gift was literally a crowning mercy and set us on our legs again, and from thenceforth we never looked back.

" In March, 1918, we were visited by Mr. Wardle, M.P., who inspected our workshops and spoke to our workpeople, and we had at that time the privilege of adding his name and those of Sir Arthur Pearson and Sir Washington Ranger to the number of our patrons.

" In 1918 (our lease having run out and we having become tenants on a three months' notice), it was resolved to purchase the freehold of our house and of the adjacent one, 58 High Street, Notting Hill Gate (the other half of the original building, with a garden at the back almost as long as that of our own). The premises were acquired for £4,200 by the kindly help of the National Institute for the Blind, the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, Gardner's Trust, and of friends and well-wishers, £3,000 being left on mortgage. In 1922, the mortgage had been reduced to £1,500, and while this memoir is being penned this remaining sum is in process of being paid off also ; so that we are now possessors, free from any charge, of two freehold houses in a central site with long gardens in the rear which are available for the building of a new up-to-date institute which should be capable of housing approximately 80 workers—a great opportunity for some well-to-do philanthropist.

" In 1922 (in anticipation of a long visit to Ceylon to see a married daughter, and having constantly in mind the recommendation of the report in 1917 of the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, to the effect that small workshops should where possible be amalgamated with or affiliated to the larger institutions, and that this recommendation should be especially given effect to in London), the Committee of the West London Institute approached the Council of the London Society for the Teaching and Training of the Blind, Swiss Cottage, with whom they were on very friendly terms, with a view to an amalgamation of the two institutions. This was successfully carried through in November, 1922, some of the members of the Committee of the Institute becoming members of the Council of the London Society, the Institute being continued at High Street, Notting Hill Gate, as before as a branch establishment of the combined charity. I became Chairman of the Sub-Committee managing the West London Workshops.

" On the occasion of the amalgamation, the opportunity was seized of petitioning Her Majesty the Queen to become a Patron of the combined charity, as His Majesty the King was already a Patron of the London Society, and to this Her Majesty graciously gave her assent ; while H.R.H. the Princess Alice (the Countess of Athlone), the Patroness of our West London Workshops, and her Husband, the Earl of

Athlone, were also good enough to consent to become Vice-Patrons of the London Society.

" The London Society was founded in 1838, and is one of our best-known blind institutions, while its Superintendent and Secretary, Mr. J. M. Ritchie, M.A., is recognised as an authority on all matters relating to the welfare of the blind. To-day its blind pupils under the age of 20 number about 145, while its workers (including adult pupils and home workers) number about 350.

" In March, 1923, on the retirement of our then Chairman, Mr. Stewart Jobson, through ill-health, I was elected Chairman of the London Society, and my connection with this Society thus brings me into touch with educational work among the blind.

And so we came into a haven where we would be,
And all this time my Wife was working alongside me.

" And I would here (and I think appropriately) use the words of old Dan'l Peggotty in ' David Copperfield ' : ' Theer's been kiender a blessing fell upon us, and we've done nowt but prosper. That is, in the long run. If not yesterday, why then to-day. If not to-day, why then to-morrow.'

" Now, as regards the blind outside our own workshops, it was not until 1912 that this side of my work began to develop. In about 1901 several of us concerned in work among the blind had come to the conclusion that some sort of State aid for the blind was necessary, and in our Institute's report for 1901 we advocated this. Some years later representatives of Voluntary Institutions for the blind and representatives of the National League for the Blind were each engaged in promoting Bills in Parliament with the object of securing State aid, but these Bills differed in some very material points. In 1912 I was invited to attend meetings of the special Committee of the Voluntary Institutions dealing with ' the Technical Education and Employment of the Blind Bill,' and was eventually asked to join the Committee. The situation may be summed up in a paragraph in an article that I read before the International Conference for the Blind in June, 1914 :—

" During the last three years a sort of com-
' petition had been going on between those
' representing the bulk of the various
' Institutions for the benefit of the blind in
' the United Kingdom and those who claim
' to represent many of the blind by reason
' of their being members of the National
' League ; the result being that for two
' years or so two Bills, aiming at very much
' the same objects but differently constructed,
' were before Parliament. The lack of
' common agreement on the details of these
' Bills prevented any common basis of
' progress, and at a deputation of the sup-
' porters of the two Bills received by a
' Committee of the Trades Union Congress
' in 1912 it was intimated by the members
' of that Committee that until agreement
' was arrived at it would be impossible for
' that body to support the Bills in Parlia-
' ment. The matter was consequently
' taken up with a view to bringing the two
' sets of representatives into agreement, and
' towards the close of 1912 the much-hoped-
' for goal was attained and an agreement
' arrived at between the representatives of
' the various Institutions for the benefit of
' the blind and the representatives of the
' Blind League, as to the provisions of the
' Bills, making it possible for an agreed Bill
' to be presented to Parliament in the present
' session.'

" It has always been a matter of congratulation to myself that the agreement referred to was arrived at at a meeting at which Mr. H. J. Wilson, the late Mr. Henry Stainsby and myself represented the Institutions, and the late Mr. Gregory, Mr. Purse and Mr. Turner the National League. After a prolonged discussion, we literally smoked the pipe of peace, and, subject to confirmation by those whom we represented, compounded our differences. There were further discussions and negotiations, but ultimately the agreement was ratified by both parties, and the result was that early in 1914 the agreed Bill was about to be presented to Parliament by Mr. Alan Burgoyne, M.P., backed by various other members in the House, when in March, 1914, Mr. Wardle, M.P., seized the opportunity of making his memorable speech advocating State aid for the blind. The speech was, with very few dissentients, very favourably received by the House, and Mr. Alan Burgoyne spoke in support and referred to the agreed Bill and outlined its provisions. Later, in June, 1914, the Bill was tabled by him for its first reading, but the outbreak of the War and the appointment by the Government of the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind put a stop to its being further proceeded with, though its effects on the minds of persons interested in

the blind can be traced later. In 1914, I was asked to write an article on the subject of past and impending legislation on behalf of the blind, and how to improve the attitude of the public towards the employment of the blind, to be read before the International Conference on the Blind. This I did, and therein gave a résumé of all the legislation of the United Kingdom that specifically affected the blind and set out a print of the agreed Bill, and I advocated the appointment of a Department or Sub-Department of State to be specially charged with the supervision of the after-care and employment of the blind. This suggestion was supported by two of the witnesses before the Departmental Committee, while many witnesses before that Committee referred to the provisions of the agreed Blind Bill with approval. If the provisions of that Bill are compared with those of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, it will, I feel sure, be admitted that the agreed Bill has left its mark on legislation for the welfare of the blind, and that the work spent on it was not in vain. The agreed Bill, with some small variations and increases in amounts to be paid to blind persons, appears to have been printed and circulated in 1919 with new backers to it, so that its provisions must probably have been before the draftsmen of the Blind Persons Act, 1920. In 1918 I took part in various conferences at the Local Government Board under the kindly chairmanship of Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., with a view to a possible federation of the London workshops, but the time for such action was unfortunately premature. In 1920 I was approached by the late Sir Arthur Pearson and his representatives with a view to forming a combined Committee for raising money for the National Institute and the London Workshops. This subsequently came into existence under the title of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, and from 1920 onwards (except for the time I was in Ceylon) I have been a member of the Advisory Committee. Thanks to the energy of those who have had the conduct of the campaigns, the Fund has brought much benefit to those institutions that participate in it. In 1926 I was asked to join the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Associations for the Blind of which I had been a member for some years, and to become a member of its Finance Committee; and in June, 1926, I was selected by that Association as one of its representatives, and nominated by the Ministry of Health as a member of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind. I have recently contributed a chapter on Legislation for the Blind to the 'Hand Book for Home Teachers for the Blind.'"

* * * *

Sir Ellis Cunliffe has other interests outside the blind world. He is Chairman of the Kensington, Fulham and Chelsea General Hospital, the Board of Management of which is to-day engaged in raising a sum for the erection of the first section of the Hospital's new buildings. He has, for over twelve years, been a member of the Governing Council of his old school, Bradfield College; is President of the Old Bradfieldians Club, and President of the Old Bradfield Boys' Mission Club, St. Luke's, Peckham. He has in later years interested himself in Church affairs, is on the London Diocesan Conference, on the Kensington Ruridecanal Conference and on various committees thereof, and has been Vice-Chairman (since its formation) of the Parochial Church Council of his church in South Kensington. He has also been interested in educational matters, as he was, for over 30 years, Honorary Treasurer, and for the greater part of that time a Manager of the Church Schools of St. John's, Waterloo Road, which hold about 1,000 children, and which were entirely rebuilt in or about 1905 at the cost of approximately £20,000 during the incumbency of the Rev. F. C. Bainbridge Bell, M.A.

Sir Ellis is also on the Executive Committee of the National Church League.

In conclusion, Sir Ellis says "It is gratifying to record the improvement in the status of the blind since I first became interested in work among them, and, while there is still more to be done, there is no denying that an enormous advance has been made in the last fifteen years, while a most laudable attempt to co-ordinate the activities of the bodies that work for the blind is a marked feature of to-day. Further, I desire to put on record that, while it has been impossible for me to make myself very personally acquainted with the large number of employees under the London Society, I have the happiest remembrance of the most friendly associations over the past 25 years with our individual workers at the West London Workshops. I feel they have recognised that, in the face of difficult circumstances, the Committee of that Institution have always done their best for them

and have really had their true interests at heart. The kindly feeling of our West London workers towards my wife and myself was testified on the occasion of our silver wedding when they presented us with a silver rose bowl which we hold as a cherished possession. While many of the blind, in spite of their dire infirmity, are of a cheerful disposition, humour perhaps does not loom up very large in administrative work among them ; and therefore I may be pardoned telling a story against myself, in connection with our work, which is distinctly humorous. A young fellow employed by the West London Workshops for the Blind was for a time habitually late in arriving in the morning, and was called before the Committee to give an explanation. He gave us to understand that his elder brother rather bullied him, and kept him late every morning, making him fag for him. Whereupon, I, as Chairman of the Committee, said, ' Tell your brother that if he goes on like that, and stops you coming to work in future, I shall come round and give him a good thrashing.' Fortunately, one of my Committee, more prescient than myself, thought of putting to the boy the following pertinent question : ' What is your brother ? ' to which the answer came : ' Please, sir, he's a prize-fighter.' The value of an astute colleague on a Committee is thus demonstrated, and I am thankful to say that the young fellow, by future improvement in the times of his arrival, saved possibly his brother, and certainly, I imagine, myself, from personal chastisement."

We notice that the motto to Sir Ellis' Family Coat-of-Arms is " Fideliter," and we think that we are justified in saying that he has been influenced by it in his work for the blind.

BRAILLE MUSIC PUBLICATIONS

THE attention of our readers who have blind friends is drawn to the fact that it has been decided to delete a considerable number of pieces from the National Institute Music Catalogue.

Perhaps they would inform them that a complete list of such deletions has been prepared in Braille, and can be obtained, gratis, on application to the Institute.

They might also explain that those who have any section of the new Braille-type Music Catalogue are therefore advised to secure a copy of this list in order to remove the corresponding titles from their own catalogues, and so prevent the possibility of ordering a number which is out of stock.

A few copies of the majority of works deleted are still available, and readers who wish to secure copies should place their orders immediately. All requests will be dealt with in strict rotation till the stock is exhausted.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

THE month of December was one of many events, but notice of some of these must be held over until a later issue, so that some account may be given of Mr. H. C. Preece's inspiring introduction to " Our Programme."

Among the outstanding events was the ball organised by the Chelsea Circle of " Helpers of the Blind," which took place at the New Chenil Galleries on December 3rd. Dancing was continued until after two o'clock, and a net sum of £248 was sent to Headquarters by the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Stuart Sheppard. The Circle, of which the Hon. Sir Edward Thesiger, K.C.B., is President, is to be congratulated, as is also the special committee formed for the occasion. Of this, Lady Fulton was Chairman. Many well-known names in the journalistic and artistic world were given in the list of stewards.

On December 7th Sir Henry and Lady Dickens issued invitations to a Dickens Entertainment and Concert in the Hall of the Inner Temple, kindly lent by the Treasurer and Benchers. Sir Henry introduced Mr. H. C. Preece in a speech which will not be quickly forgotten by those who were privileged to hear it. The donations and the collection amounted to £72. A scene from " Our Mutual Friend " was played by Miss Peggy Webster and Company, and a " Sairey Gamp " episode by Miss Inez Bensusan and Miss Marie Ault. The Dickens Carol Quartette in period costume were warmly applauded.

The same Quartette sang at over twenty night clubs and hotels during the Christmas season.

Mr. E. I. Reed, a young solicitor, who is blind, conducted his first case at Newport (Mon.) on January 1st. He defended a man charged with stealing a motor car rear lamps, and the case was dismissed.

CHRISTMAS AT THE SUNSHINE HOMES

At Chorley Wood.



ALL was still and dark and silent; then just a faint rustle, and a little arm stole from under the bed-clothes and felt round carefully until it touched a large, knobbly thing hanging on the bed! In a second the little person to whom the arm belonged was sitting up, diving into this mine of treasure. The first thing was a trumpet, which he pulled out and blew with all the energy of his pent-up excitement. Instantly the whole nursery was awake, and their little voices soon made it sound more like a colony of birds.

Even dressing and breakfast seemed less prosaic to-day, as it was a transition to more much-longed-for things. There were whispers going round that Father Christmas was coming to give them presents which he had had hung on a beautiful tree draped with silver and gold, and the Queen of all the Fairies on the top-most branch. All the time they were playing with the toys from their stockings they never forgot this, and when the door opened and it was said Father Christmas was waiting for them, they were incapable of walking to him—they jumped and skipped. There he was, with his cheery red cheeks and large white beard, dressed in a robe of scarlet. His kind voice called everyone's name in turn, and his gifts were greeted with squeals of joy and "Look, Nurse, at what Father Christmas has given!" Frank, aged five, appointed himself spokes-man, and thanked Father Christmas very prettily for his kindness in coming to them, and might they all feel his beard before he went!

Dinner time brought rest for their little tongues while they consumed a delicious meal, but they were soon loosened again when the time for crackers came. For thrills, these crackers ran the Christmas tree very close.

A short rest after all this was thought advisable. Then Matron and the nurses came into the playroom, and with renewed vigour we put all our hearts into the games we loved most—"Here we come gathering Nuts and May," "Ring-a-Roses," etc., but best of all "Musical Chairs" to finish up with before tea and Christmas cake!



Christmas at Sunshine House, Southport

Bed-time came not long after; and their happy though sleepy, little faces, and their whispers as they were tucked-up, "Good night, Nurse, my toys will be waiting for me in the morning, won't they"? made me wish so much that all those people who had given so many beautiful presents to these babies could have seen and heard them then; still more I wished that those people who fail to realise the urgency of the need might realise the immense joy such gifts cause to these tiny mites.

At Southport.

Preparation began long before Christmas Day arrived, and on Christmas Eve the Mayor and Mayoress visited the Home and distributed bags of sweets. The children entertained them with carols and songs; afterwards there was much fun and so many questions to ask and be answered. The Mayor and Mayoress remained for tea, and were much impressed by the children—their happiness and their independence in getting about the various rooms.

At bedtime each little sock was hung up with a special request which, needless to say, was granted. Father Christmas paid his usual visit, and there were a few who waited for him—they were able to tell the others in the morning that *he* had really been and *they* had seen him! Each stocking contained fruit, biscuits, and sweets, together with the toy they had long wished for. There were also squeaking rubber toys which gave much happiness.

After breakfast we assembled in the playroom to "remember Whose birthday it was," and from each little voice there arose praise and thanksgiving.

Dinner was celebrated in real Christmas style, chicken with vegetables, and after that the Christmas pudding, borne in on high, was given cheer after cheer. Crackers followed, and were greatly enjoyed, and the children marched out to their stretchers to rest decorated with caps and masks.

During the afternoon games were played and presents distributed from the Christmas tree, Mrs. Goodfellow very kindly coming along for this purpose.

Tea was another big meal consisting of plain sponged iced cake, chocolate biscuits, bread and butter, and cocoa—more crackers, and then three cheers for everybody. One thought the little throats would burst with joy and happiness.

Friends both far and near were most kind and generous in their gifts and thoughts for the babies and Home, and as silence fell on the nurseries we lifted our hearts in thankfulness to God for these and all gifts and blessings bestowed upon the Home not only during this festive season but throughout 1926.

At Leamington.

Our Christmas seemed to start quite early this year with an invitation for some of the older babies to go to a Christmas tree in Leamington.

Then came the breaking-up party in the Kindergarten, with a little fairy play by the babies, which they did splendidly. There were lots of fairies, very proud of their wings, who sang and danced folk-dances, and the small actors and actresses enjoyed it every bit as much as did their audience (the staff).

At last came Christmas Eve, and the most important business of hanging up little socks. As Father Christmas had been told up the chimney what each one *really* wanted, of course he could do nothing else but put it in their stockings, and there it was when they scrambled down to the bottom of their cots on Christmas morning—and other things as well. Very soon after the first baby wakened, the whole family was busy with its treasures. After breakfast games filled in the time until the arrival of visitors bringing toys, sweets and cakes. Then came dinner, when, for the older babies, there was a special Christmas pudding which they much enjoyed. At three o'clock Father Christmas came. Some of the older babies found him in the drive, and pulled him along, all talking at the same time, to see the Christmas tree. On the tree were toys for every baby, and there were lots of crackers to pull.

Next came tea, with a very large iced cake (Dr. Wardrop's gift), which had all sorts of decorations on it—robins, holly, Father Christmas, and even a tiny Christmas tree. When tea was in full swing, Dr. and Mrs. Wardrop came in. After tea more crackers and games till bedtime. Soon after the family had gone upstairs there was not a sound. Every babe was tired out and happy, and just went to sleep straight away.

When all the babies were tucked up and asleep, the nurses hurried into fancy dress to dance to the wireless music; and so ended another very happy Christmas day, which everyone—babies and grown-ups—thoroughly enjoyed.

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

"It is generally the idle who complain that they cannot find time to do that which they fancy they wish. In truth, people can generally find time for what they choose to do: it is not really the time but the will that is wanting; and the advantage of leisure is mainly that we have the power of choosing our own work; not certainly that it confers any privilege of idleness."—LORD LUBBOCK.



IT was Goulburn who said that "We shall never know what it is to live in peace, until we know what it is to live thoroughly in the present. We need all our energies for the fulfilment of present duties." There are many exceedingly unwise people who appear to have imbibed a philosophy which suggests that they have no concern whatever with the present, and that pressing duties and obligations can be lightly disregarded so long as they exhibit an attitude of intense concern for the future. It is this error of judgment which in a large measure is responsible for much of the nonsense to which we are so often treated in discussions on the society of the future, and it is probable that nowhere more than in the circles associated with work on behalf of non-seeing people is this attitude more frequently implied or expressed.

So long as the records of social and industrial history can be pressed into the service of mankind, so long will the year 1920 be memorable to all who are or may be interested in the welfare of the blind.

In a special sense, the past six and a half years have not merely been a testing time, but, in a large degree, the period has been one of experimentation. The least optimistic critic with the facts before him must admit that infinitely greater achievements have been realised than could have been thought possible from the simple statutory enactment of September, 1920.

It was perhaps in the very nature of things that we should look rather suspiciously upon what appeared to be the very meagre provisions set forth in this short enactment. With much foreboding then, and not a little suspicion, we took up the task of administration with little enthusiasm for the job. Experience has demonstrated to all but a very small cult that more things have been accomplished in Britain than were ever dreamed of in our philosophy, and it can be now affirmed unreservedly that this simple enactment has entirely changed not merely the atmosphere in which we previously had to work, but our conception of duties and responsibilities has undergone a fundamental change, and that, be it said, to the exclusive advantage of the blind community. Occasionally we learn of spasmodic attempts that are made in certain directions to secure so-called amending proposals; but these efforts will continue to prove abortive, for the ideas upon which the suggested changes are based are usually such as are possible of accomplishment in the present state of the law, or else they seek to impose conditions that are entirely at variance with the theory and practice of economic law.

We are not justified then in anticipating any drastic change in the provisions of the Blind Persons Act for a very long time. Its administrative qualities will continue to improve, and still greater use will be made of its most elastic machinery; having regard, however, to the great potentialities of the measure, Parliament can be much better employed legislatively than by interfering with the rational and normal development of the conditions envisaged by present statutory sanctions.

The writer of this article has repeatedly stated that there is nothing of material importance that is required for the well-being of the blind community which cannot be secured under the present enactment so long as we can convince the County or County Borough authorities that such changes are reasonable and essential, and he sees no justification for altering or amending that view.

Those who are continually avowing their faith in democratic forms of government cannot surely dissent from one of the first principles which must continue to guide and control all representative institutions, namely, that those deputed to act on behalf of the people must satisfy themselves that all forms of taxation are levied by the consent of the body politic acting through properly accredited agents, such consent being either expressly stated or implied. The absence of these

mutual understandings and conceptions would mean the end of all forms of representative government, and, consequently, the destruction of all legislative and administrative machinery.

Certain people are much too apt to think that their own little concerns are of such paramount importance as to completely obscure all other interests and issues. They talk as though their own very small problems are of greater magnitude and importance than matters of deep concern which affect great masses of wealth producers. They would, in fact, have us believe that a part is greater than the whole.

The blind man represents but one unit in proportion to 911 of the population; so that, when we are called to examine the claims which other sections of society have upon the generosity of the community, we are not justified in pressing our demands beyond premises that may properly be regarded as equitable.

It has been computed that all forms of benevolent work in this country attract to themselves about £32,000,000 annually; and, when we remember the thousands of praiseworthy objects for the sustenance of which money is needed, it is not unreasonable to say that the blind community derive a very fair proportion of the available funds.

In a subsequent article we propose to show in detail what has been accomplished during the past six years, and to examine the expenditure that has been incurred in fostering those essential services which are conferring tremendous advantages upon the blind community.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

BIOGRAPHY.

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
St. John Irvine.	Parnell	4

CLASSICS.

Cicero.	Orations (trans. by R. Morgan)	3
Cicero.	Pro Murena (with Notes by W. E. Heitland)	3

ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE.

Harley, J. H.	Syndicalism	1

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Various Authors.	The Teaching of English	2

HISTORY.

Corbett, J.	Sir Francis Drake	3
Oman, Sir C.	England before the Norman Conquest	13

PHILOSOPHY.

Joad, C. E. M.	Modern Philosophy	2

POETRY AND DRAMA.

Galsworthy, J.	The Skin Game	1

SCIENCE.

Haddon, A. C.	Races of Man	3
Watts, W. W.	Geology for Beginners	5

DANCING CLASSES FOR THE BLIND

IT is often a matter of extreme difficulty for blind people to obtain sufficient physical exercise, and it was, therefore, with the very greatest pleasure that we attended a display of dancing by the blind held just before Christmas in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind.

The word "dancing" is perhaps not used in a strictly correct manner, as the display consisted in marching, in graceful physical exercises, and in groupings arranged by the blind members of the class.

The lessons are given by a member of the Margaret Morris School of Dancing, by arrangement with Miss Margaret Morris, who herself attended the display, and the pupils are students of the Massage School of the National Institute for the Blind. They comported themselves so admirably, and displayed such suppleness and grace after only ten lessons, that one could not but be surprised at the result.

Hearty thanks are due to Miss Margaret Morris, who has so kindly arranged for these classes to be held.

THE STROLLING PLAYERS

AFTER an excellent dramatic rendering of Galsworthy's "The Skin Game," reported in our last issue, it was not surprising that a large attendance should be the outcome of the announcement that Mr. Flannery's private company had arranged a reading under similar conditions of "A Bill of Divorcement," by Clemence Dane, on Tuesday, January 11th.

This well-known play gives great opportunities for impassioned scenes, and every character was admirably taken by the members of the company; the impression throughout being not of a reading, but of the most telling action.

The applause left no doubt of the immense appreciation of the audience, and the announcement in Mr. Warrilow's vote of thanks that Mrs. Flannery had arranged to give a modern play each month was greeted with unmistakable enthusiasm.

In the Boys' London Chess Championship, Rupert Cross, a student at Worcester College for the Blind, tied with another boy for fifth and sixth prizes.

BLINDNESS: BORDER-LINE CASES



AT the last Conference of the Unions of Associations of the Blind, the question of the best method of dealing with the non-certifiable blind was discussed. It was pointed out that voluntary agencies for the blind, in dealing with cases of blindness, may frequently be faced with the difficult choice of either carrying out the apparent wishes of the local authorities by adhering strictly to the definition of blindness in Circular 681, or by carrying out the apparent wishes of their supporters by extending that definition to embrace cases of people whose defective eyesight prevents them taking their place in the world on an ordinary footing.

The issue of Circular 681 defining blindness was necessitated by the knowledge that a number of persons not blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, were being treated as blind persons, and that it was consequently reasonable to suppose that ophthalmologists were applying different standards in different parts of the country. But the Circular does not say that anything over a numerical formula means sight, and that anything under means blindness: it simply intends the numerical formula to be a guide.

The position really is this: if a person has sight worse than 3/60ths, all other factors can be ignored—that person is blind; if a person has sight better than 6/60ths, that person may still be blind if there are other factors which make him blind. Or, to put it briefly, the authorities do not blindly apply a mere numerical formula. It should be clearly understood, however, that as far as the duties of the Ministry of Health are concerned, blindness must only be determined on purely visual factors, *all* of which may be taken into account. It follows, therefore, that the work on which a case under consideration is engaged is irrelevant to the question.

It was frankly admitted at the Conference that the border-line case provided a very great problem. The Ministry of Health, the Board of Education and the Local Authorities (in so far as blind welfare work under the Blind Persons Act is concerned) deal solely with persons who can be certified as definitely blind. Accordingly, if it is decided that a case is *not* blind, the matter is definitely taken out of their hands. Nevertheless, if an ophthalmic surgeon furnishes good evidence that what might be considered a doubtful case may become a definite case, then the Board of Education and the Ministry of Health are always willing to consider that case on its own merits, and always ready to do their best within the statutory limits. In other words, it is apparent that if an ophthalmic surgeon states that in his view the person is (despite a remnant of vision above the limit of 6/60ths) still too blind to be able to perform work for which eyesight is essential, and states visual factors in support of this view, then the case will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Board of Education, as the training authority, and the Ministry of Health, as the employment authority.

The feeling of the Conference on this admittedly difficult matter seemed to be that the problem of the partially blind was a separate problem from that of the blind, and that consequently border-line cases must either come definitely within the one problem or within the other. If the most sympathetic consideration of the authorities could bring a border-line case into the definition of a blind case within the meaning of the Act, then that case would receive the benefits conferred by the Act. If, on the other hand, a border-line case failed even after appeal to come within the meaning of the Act, then the voluntary associations should give all such cases their most sympathetic consideration.

We presume that should the number of such cases and the difficulties of the problem increase, application for national legislation on the subject might then be justified, and would accordingly be made.

MISS SMITH, of Bryn Willow, Paignton, will be most grateful for any contributions, however small, to her annual sale for raising funds towards the expense of republishing the Bible in Braille type which the National Institute for the Blind is now doing. Contributions may be sent in any time during the year till September 1st. All gifts will be gratefully acknowledged.

NEWS ITEMS

The third annual ball in aid of the Guild of Blind Gardeners will take place at Claridge's Hotel on Thursday, April 28th.

The Ministry of Health has issued a circular to county and county borough councils, drawing attention to the Wireless Telegraphy (Blind Persons Facilities) Act, 1926, and intimating that it is hoped that councils will do all in their power to facilitate the working of the Act by the prompt issue of certificates to applicants who are registered as blind persons in their area.

The following students of the Massage School of the National Institute for the Blind have successfully qualified in the examinations of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics, and also in the Medical Electricity examination :—Miss R. V. Chater, Mr. G. S. Cox, and Mr. T. F. Fernberg.

Three students also successfully qualified in the Swedish Remedial Exercises examination.

At a conference of wireless organisations, held at Savoy Hill last month, it was decided to set up an advisory committee representing the following four organisations : The Radio Society of Great Britain, the Radio Association, the Wireless League, and the Wireless Association of Great Britain.

The committee is intended as a liaison body between listeners, experimenters, and the B.B.C.

Captain Ian Fraser, M.P., has accepted the invitation of the committee to be its chairman.

For 25 years President of the British Deaf and Dumb Association, the Rev. William Blomefield Sleight has died at the age of 75. Mr. Sleight was a member of the Royal Commission on the Blind, the Deaf, and the Dumb in 1896.

A BLIND POTTER

REMARKABLE handicraft work from villages and institutions in Essex was displayed at an exhibition of Essex industries at Colchester to-day.

Mr. T. A. Fall, a blind potter, of Ashdon, Saffron Walden, exhibited clever work in vases, bowls, and trinket boxes.

OBITUARY

WE regret to announce the death of Miss G. M. Winterton, who for 5½ years was an Assistant Mistress in the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Newcastle-on-Tyne. After a brief illness of one week she succumbed to pneumonia on Wednesday, December 22nd. She was a woman of sterling qualities, of high character and genial disposition. These attributes, together with her devotion to duty, won for her the lasting affection and respect of all those with whom she came in contact.

She was singularly devoid of anything like selfishness or guile. Of young people she was particularly fond. She would enter into their feelings and sympathise with their weaknesses and frailties. In her teaching she was always bright and happy in her manner, and she had many of the qualifications which go to make a successful teacher. Her fellow teachers and pupils deeply deplore her loss, and sorrow deeply with the relatives whom she has left behind.

TAPE MEASURES FOR THE BLIND

TAPE measures for the blind are now on sale at the National Institute for the Blind, price 1/9 each, as compared with 5/3, the cheapest hitherto stocked. They are supplied in nine-inch markings (green), this kind being used for dressmaking, and in six-inch markings (pink), and orders should state which of these is required.

LEEDS EDUCATION AUTHORITY.
TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

REQUIRED for April next for the above-named centre :

1 Male Instructor in Basket Making
1 „ „ Brush „
1 „ „ Mat „
1 Female Instructor in Knitting
1 „ „ Chair Caning and Light Basket Work.

Ability to take **Swedish Weaving** desirable.

The persons appointed will come under either the Teachers' or the Local Government Officers' Superannuation Scheme.

Preference will be given to those with experience of training of the Blind.

Applications stating age, qualifications, experience and salary, together with copies of three recent testimonials, to be submitted to the undersigned on or before February 16th, 1927.

JAMES GRAHAM,
Director of Education.

Education Department,
Leeds.

THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1927

APRIL Vol. XI No. 124

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire. The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	CHURCH—		
7658	"If my Tears be Unavailing," Alto Recit. and Air from "St. Matthew Passion," by Bach (G minor: Compass C to E′ natural), pocket size	2	0
7659	"I will Sing of Thy Great Mercies," Soprano Recit. and Air from "St. Paul," by Mendelssohn (F: Compass E to F′), pocket size	2	0
	ORGAN—		
7660	Fantasia in C minor, Vol. 4, No. 12, by Bach (Bar by bar)	2	0
7661	Toccatina in C, by Hubert Bath (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7662	"Marche Militaire," by Percy C. Buck (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7663	"Spring Song," by Hollins (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7664	"The Curfew," by E. J. Horsman (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7665	"East Wind," No. 3 of "The Four Winds," by Alec Rowley (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7666	Scherzo in B flat, by Wolstenholme (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO—		
7667	"Gavotte" and "Musette" in D minor, by Bach (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7668	"Woods and Fairies" (First Piano Pieces), by Peter Broom (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7669	"On the Briny," Nautical Suite, by Howard Carr (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7670	March Album (for School use), by G. Cumberland (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7671	Allegro, Sarabande and Passacaille in G minor (from 7th Suite), by Handel (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7672	Hornpipe (from the "Water Music"), by Handel (arr. by Grainger) (Bar by bar)	2	0
7673	"Idle Moments" (Set of Five Pieces), by Eric Mareo (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7674	Studies, Nos. 1 and 5, Op. 70, Book I, by Moscheles (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7675	Country Dance Tunes, Set 5, by Cecil J. Sharp (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	4
7676	"Our Village in Winter" (Six Short Pieces), by C. M. Spurling (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7677	"Second Serenata," by E. Toselli (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	DANCE—		
7678	"Let's all go to Mary's House," Song Fox-Trot, by Conrad and Wood (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7679	"Baby Face," Song Fox-Trot, by Davis and Akst (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7680	"You can't take away my Dreams," Song-Waltz, by F. Herbin (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
7681	"Bid me discourse," by Bishop (F: Compass A, to G′), pocket size	2	0
7682	"I triumph! I triumph!" by G. Carissimi (A: Compass A, to D′)	2	0
7683	"A Greenlander's Song," by Chaminade (A minor: Compass A, to E′), pocket size	2	0
7684	"'Tis the Day," by R. Leoncavallo (D: Compass B, to G′), pocket size	2	0
7685	"Keep on keeping on," by Ernest Longstaffe (C: Compass C to D′), pocket size	2	0
7686	"The Kiddies' Book" (Nursery Rhymes), by T. Richardson and Elizabeth C. L. Richardson, pocket size	2	0
7687	"Hymn to the Sun," by Rimsky-Korsakov (F: Compass D to G′)	2	0
7688	"The Voices all are still," by Landon Ronald (E flat: Compass C to E′), pocket size	2	0
7689	"Diaphenia," by Harold Samuel, D, Compass C to E′	2	0
7690	"Praise," by Haydn Wood (A: Compass E to E′), pocket size	2	0

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

	BELLES LETTRES—		
6751	Imaginary Portraits, by Walter Pater	9	3
6696-6697	New and Old Letters to Dead Authors, by Andrew Lang, 2 vols.	per vol.	5 9
6087-6089	On the Art of Writing, by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, 3 vols.	per vol.	5 6
6637-6641	Selected Essays, by William Hazlitt, 5 Series	per serie	9 0
	FICTION—		
6946-6949	The Old Dominion, by Mary Johnston, 4 vols.	per vol.	6 3
7087, 7088	The Red Lacquer Case, by Patricia Wentworth, 2 vols.	per vol.	9 9

(Continued on page 3 of cover)

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

THE WORK OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

OF THE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

II.—STUDENTS' LIBRARY



THE Students' Library of the National Institute for the Blind has been described as "almost unique amongst libraries for the blind." According to the Institute's Annual Report, it is "a library of books which are unobtainable from other libraries. Other libraries provide books generally in request; the Students' Library provides books individually in request. The necessarily limited production of Braille books in comparison with ordinary books must always bar the blind student's access through general libraries to all the books he needs; the Students' Library, however, steps into the gap and supplies such requirements, at the same time forming a collection of books invaluable to all blind students. No matter how abstruse a work may be, provided it is required for the studies of a single blind student, the Braille copy is prepared with all speed, and loaned to that student for as long as he needs it."

For the origin of the Students' Library we must go back to the War period, when many educated men lost their sight and had to be re-educated to qualify for new careers. They had been accustomed to studying print books, and found that being read aloud to did not prove a satisfactory way of acquiring knowledge. One of the responsible officials at St. Dunstan's (Mr. T. H. Martin), therefore, suggested that books for students should be provided in Braille. The National Institute was asked to undertake the transcription of such books, there being no other national society in existence which had as an object the provision of special literature for blind students, and which could guarantee the production of such books in time for examination purposes. In those days there happened to be a small band of voluntary workers attached to the Institute who transliterated into Braille, books—generally novels—which were sent out to blind copyists, who were paid to duplicate them. This gave employment to many blind people who otherwise would have been idle. The Institute at that time was responsible to a large extent for the welfare of St. Dunstan's men, and at once saw the necessity of undertaking this additional work. Accordingly, the Manuscript Department we have mentioned, with its tiny staff, began the training of further volunteers and the additional training of its older workers. The first special undertaking was the production of twenty-eight volumes in Latin Braille for an Australian who wished to matriculate in England before returning to Australia. No doubt, the workmanship in these volumes would fall much below our

present standard of Braille; but the books proved of immense value to the student, and we trust have since done good service in Australia, whither they journeyed with him.

The next tasks were the transliteration of twenty-seven volumes of Botany for a blinded soldier at Oxford—who afterwards shared them with a friend—and over eighty volumes of French, comprising such works as: Des Grange's "Morceaux Choisis"; Lamartine's "Premières Méditations"; Gaston Paris and Jeanroy's "Extraits des Chroniqueurs Francais"; Commercial French Reader; Advanced French Reader, etc., etc. These books were required by a professor who, losing his sight in the War, wished to continue his original work of lecturing.

By this time the original work of the Manuscript Department, mainly the production of fiction for copying purposes, had practically disappeared, and all efforts were concentrated on educational works. What worrying times they were, and what problems had to be solved! We wonder if readers of *The Beacon* who are interested in Braille realise how much invention is necessary to produce true copies of technical works, so that the Braille conveys to the blind student what the print does to those who can see? The Braille system, wonderfully efficient so far as light literature is concerned, needs much extension when study books have to be transcribed. The special print marks for denoting paragraphs and sections, the sign for "equals" so commonly used in books these days, and many other signs are not included in the Braille instruction books.

To obtain some idea of the difficult task the Manuscript Department had to encounter, it is of interest to note that in 1919 it was asked to undertake a number of books in Old English, Middle English, Gothic, West Saxon, Latin and French for a student at London University. Many of these books required special codes before they could be begun. These codes required revision from time to time as the work progressed, but they have now been perfected and are in regular use.

Another initial difficulty of this work was the arrangement or laying out of books; for tables of statistics, genealogical tables, etc.—so clear in print and easy to follow—could not be transliterated into Braille in the same way.

Much time has been expended in experiments, and now through the help of the voluntary workers—that untiring band of devoted men and women—a method has been standardised by which almost any tabular work, and even diagrams, can be represented satisfactorily in Braille.

As knowledge of the Manuscript Department spread, the demands for educational books increased rapidly, and it was noticed that some of the requests included books already transcribed. It will be readily understood that the duplication of books would have involved much unnecessary labour, and, as the Department was working to its utmost capacity, some measure was sought to save the necessity of re-transcribing the same works. It was therefore decided that students should be asked to return their books after examinations were over, so that they could be available for other students when required; in this way the Students' Library was founded.

At this time much was being said about the suitability of Law as a possible profession for educated blind men, and an urgent request for books on this subject was received from a soldier who intended to go up to Cambridge taking this subject, and later to qualify for the Bar. Over ninety volumes were transcribed, representing ten standard works in Law, and these books may be said to have formed the nucleus of the best Braille Law Library in the world. Unfortunately, several of the books transcribed at that period have been superseded by newer works; for Law is a subject which undergoes frequent revision, and it has always been the aim of the Institute to keep up to date in this subject.

From this time onward, the Institute received requests from all parts of the country for books on a variety of matters. History, English Literature, Classics, Psychology, etc.; and the staff at Headquarters had to be increased to deal with the proof-reading of Braille volumes. All books of so important a nature required checking word for word with the printed text—not for Braille errors, but for the more fatal error of omissions.

It has always been the aim of the National Institute to help in the training of the blind for useful careers, and, while providing the necessary fees in many cases, to see that students should not lack in equipment. The establishment of the Students' Library has been an important factor in deciding the future career of many young blind men, for they frequently

consider what books are available before deciding which course to take.

Year by year the Library grows in size and usefulness, and at the present moment there are about 5,000 volumes, including such works as " Agricultural Zoology," by Theobald, in 8 volumes ; " John Keats," by Colvin, in 9 volumes ; " Commentary on Herodotus," by Howe and Wells, in 26 volumes ; " Histories " of Herodotus, in 13 volumes ; " Documents of English Economic History," by Bland, Brown and Tawney, in 16 volumes ; " Students' Commercial Book-keeping," in 8 volumes ; " British History in the Nineteenth Century," by Trevelyan, in 10 volumes ; " History of Morals," by Robertson, in 10 volumes ; " Public School German Grammar," by Meissner, in 8 volumes ; " Trois Portraits Littéraires," in 4 volumes ; " Modern Real Property," by Cheshire, in 17 volumes ; " Roman Law," by Sohn, in 12 volumes ; " Introduction to Logic," by Joseph, in 12 volumes ; " English Miracle Plays," edited by Pollard, in 6 volumes ; " Fourteenth Century Verse and Prose," edited by Sisam, in 10 volumes ; " Philosophical Theory of the State," by Bosanquet, in 5 volumes ; " Psychology, Normal and Morbid," by Mercier, in 11 volumes.

It would be easy to write much more about the Students' Library and its functions ; but space is limited, and what we specially wish to make clear to readers of *The Beacon* is that the Students' Library exists not so much to provide blind readers with general information upon the subjects dealt with, as to furnish immediate practical assistance to students requiring these subjects for professional purposes. It is upon this object that the Manuscript Department concentrates, and we are pleased to be told, as we often are, that, so far, its efforts have been of real service.

" Although," says the Institute's last Annual Report, " the work only affects a small percentage of the total blind population of the country, it is of the highest importance, because it endeavours to supply all possible means to the pioneers of progress—those men and women of the blind world who, nothing daunted by the difficulties on their way, aim at the highest, and, more often than not, achieve it. By one victory a thousand attempts are inspired."

THE EDITOR.

CALIFORNIA'S PROFESSIONAL COFFEE TASTER

THE " Outlook for the Blind " tells of a blind woman with a unique occupation. She is Emma Mast, blind since the age of fourteen, who is employed by A. Schilling and Company of San Francisco as a coffee taster. She has held the job for over twenty years and was hired because of her blindness, the head of the firm believing that her sense of taste would be more keenly developed on account of her lack of sight. Miss Mast was selected from a group of students at the California School for the Deaf and Blind, and carefully trained by the Schilling Company in discriminating between different blends and flavours with which they have experimented. In the day's work she sips coffee from South and Central America, Mexico, Hawaii, Java and Arabia.

To the company's blender she gives her expert opinion upon thousands of varieties, grown under different altitudes and varying weather conditions which affect a coffee crop. The Schilling Company affirm that Miss Mast is the only blind coffee taster in the world.

To California belongs then the distinction of initiating an interesting vocation for the blind which is not overtaxing in its physical demands. Miss Mast's job does not require her entire time, and she has leisure for household duties.

THE QUEEN AND THE BLIND

WHEN Her Majesty the Queen paid a visit to the Claremont Central Mission, Pentonville, on February 14th, she evinced keen appreciation of the work of some blind men and women who were engaged in making baskets and in knitting and sewing. She bought various articles made by the blind, amongst others some trays, declaring that their workmanship could not be bettered by a professional worker.

Her Majesty also witnessed a demonstration of Braille, and had some conversation with a blind girl who has belonged to the Guild since childhood, and is a worker in the Manuscript Department of the National Institute for the Blind.

FREE " passes " have been issued by the Lincoln Corporation to fifty blind persons to travel on the city tramways and buses.

CONFERENCE AT THE CLOTHWORKERS' HALL

A SUCCESSFUL conference of secretaries, home teachers, representatives of local authorities and other workers for the blind, was held at the Clothworkers' Hall on March 16th and 17th. Colonel F. J. Angell, C.B.E., the Master of the Clothworkers' Company, welcomed the delegates and occupied the chair on the first day, and was supported by Mr. P. M. Evans, LL.D., Clerk to the Company and Chairman of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties' Association for the Blind, whilst the Rev. E. C. Pearce, D.D., Chairman of the Eastern Counties' Association for the Blind, was the Chairman on March 17th.

Amongst those who contributed papers were Miss E. M. Pearson (National Library for the Blind), Miss Joan Lloyd (Middlesex), Miss Lyon (M.A.C.A.B. Counties), Miss M. G. Thomas (M.A.C.A.B. Supervisor, Home Visiting Department), Miss L. Kingston (East Ham), Mr. J. M. Ritchie (Swiss Cottage), and Mr. E. G. Bearon (Ministry of Health), and at the concluding session questions were answered by Mr. F. R. Lovett (Ministry of Health) and Dr. A. Eichholtz (Board of Education).

There was an excellent exhibition of work: hand-knitting, rugs, baskets, etc., done as pastime occupations by the blind under the tuition of the London and West Ham home visitors.

It is hoped to give further details with regard to the speeches in our next issue.

OBITUARY

WE regret to record the death, after a long illness, of Mrs. Arthur Inkersley, who was well known for her charitable work at Torquay, where she lived for many years. Mrs. Inkersley was one of the Foundation Members of the Torquay and District Home Teaching Society for the Blind, of which her husband was at one time Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

MR. ARCHIBALD HENDERSON, Castle Street, Glasgow, has been elected general secretary of the National League of the Blind.

Mr. P. Madden, also of Glasgow, is the new executive member for Scotland.

PARLIAMENT AND THE BLIND

IN the House of Commons last month, Mr. R. Morrison asked the President of the Board of Education how many education authorities had made special provision for the education of blind and partially blind children under their jurisdiction; how many had made partial provision; and how many had not yet made any provision.

Lord Eustace Percy replied that it was not possible to give exact figures. The provision made in certified special schools for totally blind children between the ages of five and sixteen was (generally speaking) complete. In the case of partially blind children the provision was not generally complete. Thirteen authorities had provided special schools for their partially blind children, and, in addition, there were some 15 to 20 authorities who either admitted all their partially blind children to their own schools for the blind or sent them to other blind schools or institutions. In a number of the smaller areas no partially blind children had been ascertained.

Mr. R. Morrison asked the President of the Board of Education the present estimated number of blind or partially blind children who might benefit by admission to special schools; how many of these children were at present in special schools; how many in public elementary schools; how many in residential institutions; and how many were not attending any school.

Lord Eustace Percy circulated the following reply:—

	Blind.	Partially blind.
Total number of blind and partially blind children ascertained by local education authorities in 1925	2,000	4,692
Number attending special schools	1,642	2,258
Number attending public elementary schools	63	2,069
Number in other institutions ..	33	26
Number not attending any school	262	339

Mr. Short asked the President of the Board of Education what was the number of sightless children of elementary school age on December 31st, 1926.

Lord Eustace Percy stated that the number of totally blind children between the ages of five and sixteen ascertained by the local authorities during the year ended December 31st, 1925, the last year for which complete records are available, was 2,000

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)

" The bad workmen, who form the majority of the operatives in many branches of industry, are decidedly of opinion that bad workmen ought to receive the same wages as good."—*John Stuart Mill.*



EFORE proceeding to discuss in detail the newly-created facilities for the employment of an additional number of blind persons, and before venturing to supply detailed information regarding the extension of already existing facilities, it is very desirable that we should attempt to discuss briefly some of the fundamental difficulties associated with methods of remuneration.

Professor Edwin Cannan in the introduction to his admirable book on wealth, dealing with certain economic fallacies, says that the fact that professional economists are as disinclined to publish a refutation as the astronomer royal is to answer the theorists who declare that the world is flat, is taken by some people as an evidence that their theories and conclusions are substantially true. Professor Cannan goes on to say : " It is not refutation of ridiculous suggestions which is required, but their non-appearance in consequence of there being no possibility of their gaining acceptance in minds already occupied by a knowledge of the actual nature and working of the economic machine."

It would appear that a certain school of thought has determined that their propaganda should be so directed as to instil in the minds of the public the conception that the remuneration paid to all sightless artisans shall be based upon what is described as the minimum wage. In these columns we have pointed out repeatedly that considerable confusion exists in the minds of these people as to what constitutes wage payments. There is no necessity here to enter upon abstruse definitions of economic terms, for it will be generally agreed that a wage, in the accepted sense, is that quantity of wealth production which is the agreed amount to be appropriated to the exclusive use of the worker whether his labour be expressed in manual dexterity or mental power. It will be readily understood, therefore, that such a definition is not the one comprehended by votaries of the school of thought to which we have alluded, and therefore such a definition will, of course, be at once rejected.

Mr. Ian D. Colvin has rightly observed:— " Catchwords are to the politician what his clubs are to the golfer. With half a dozen different shapes and sizes he can get round any course and out of every bunker."

So far as one is able to judge, the idea seems to have gained currency that a man or woman, because he or she may be labouring under some severe disability or limitation, has a right to call upon the State, the municipalities, or the voluntary agencies to make good any deficiency which real economic power fails to supply. This is a theory which we are bound to examine in detail. It would be sheer stupidity to dismiss it with a mere negative reply, because the notion, however ill-founded it may be, is deeply rooted in the minds of many people, and merely to repudiate the contention without advancing valid reasons for the rejection, would be simply to follow the bad example of those who are responsible for foisting the idea upon the community. The blind worker, as indeed every other worker, is entitled to receive the due recognition of the services he performs on behalf of the community. It makes no difference whatever as to whether he is the employee of a private firm or whether he be a Civil servant. The assessment of his capacity is determined by certain economic laws which, though subject to change, are nevertheless only influenced by the conditions that prevail in every allied industry or occupation ; and when we proceed to examine the foundation upon which the principle of the minimum wage rests, we must first recognise that, in the economic sense, the difficulties confronting us are very real. Every person familiar with industrial conditions recognises that when we speak of establishing a minimum wage we are in fact agreed that a certain ascertainment of labour value has been made, and that labour value has been assessed in such a way as to represent the

earning capacity of the average worker engaged in the industry. The employee brings to his task 100 per cent. of capacity, and in return receives in cash values the equivalent, or at least such an amount as the industry is adjudged to be capable of bearing. Therefore, the minimum wage, as such, is scientifically conceived, and is the agreed equivalent of definite services. By no stretch of imagination can you apply such a test to the labour of the blind. Every calculation you make must be based upon the assumption that you are dealing with persons whose assessment of disability must be placed at a very high level, and whose productive capacity accordingly is correspondingly low : so that, in point of fact, your so-called minimum wage is not, in the economic sense, a wage at all. It is a weekly allowance made to certain individuals and conditioned by the fact that they must render some service, or that they must produce a certain number of commodities. We do not even stipulate that the maximum amount of production shall be given ; though this condition is implied or understood, unfortunately it is seldom realised. If we proceeded to fix a minimum wage on the same basis as that commonly practised in industry, the position of the blind worker would be very serious indeed ; but the State, the municipalities and voluntary agencies have long ago recognised the impossibility of applying such a theory, and have sought to devise practical means by which the standard of life of the average artisan can be appreciably improved. As yet, no ideal system has been evolved. We are, as it were, feeling our way to a conception that will be equitable in its incidence and application, and at the same time provide sufficient scope and initiative to enable the blind worker to give of his best both in quality and production. But to urge that every worker, regardless of the quality or quantity of his work, shall receive an equal amount of remuneration, is the greatest piece of unmitigated nonsense ever foisted upon a community, unless it be that community of which Emerson speaks in one of his essays. The story is perhaps worth repeating.

In effect Emerson says : "When I was a young man I joined the American Commune where we had 'all things in common except common sense.' "

Outside the theories and conclusions of the Communistic State, I cannot conceive any intelligent man or woman, no matter what their limitations may be, claiming that they have a right to demand from the State greater service than that for which they are capable of providing an equivalent. Whenever one ventures, therefore, to approach matters closely relating to the provision of employment facilities, or the allied subject of methods of remuneration, it is frequently urged that there is a want of sympathy unless one can unreservedly give support to the theories and conclusions of the school of thought to which reference has already been made. Surely it is possible to view these matters from a common-sense angle without being unsympathetic. The resources of the community are not inexhaustible, and every impost in the form of taxation levied for the continuity of social service means, in effect, a tax upon the labour of the competent and the fit. We have a right, surely, to ask how far we are justified in attempting to force the pace in matters of this kind. It may seem a small thing to some people that the rates of the County of London should have to bear this year approximately an increase of £10,000 for services rendered to the blind community ; but are we not justified in asking ourselves, do we possess a claim upon the community that is greater than could be preferred by some other handicapped people ? If it be conceded that we do, then the community must sooner or later determine the limit beyond which we have no right to travel, and some day it will be the business of an intelligent State to demand that the maximum of service shall be available for the standard of life conceded to us.

(To be continued.)

COLLEGE AND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND

THE next examination for school teachers will be held on Thursday and Friday, 26th and 27th May next, at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3. Forms of application may be obtained from the Hon. Registrar, Mr. F. I. Stainsby, 224-8 Great Portland Street, W.1, and must be returned to him not later than 9th April next.

The Home Teachers' Examination will be held from 24th to 26th May next at London, Liverpool and Edinburgh. Forms of application must reach the Hon. Registrar not later than 9th April next.

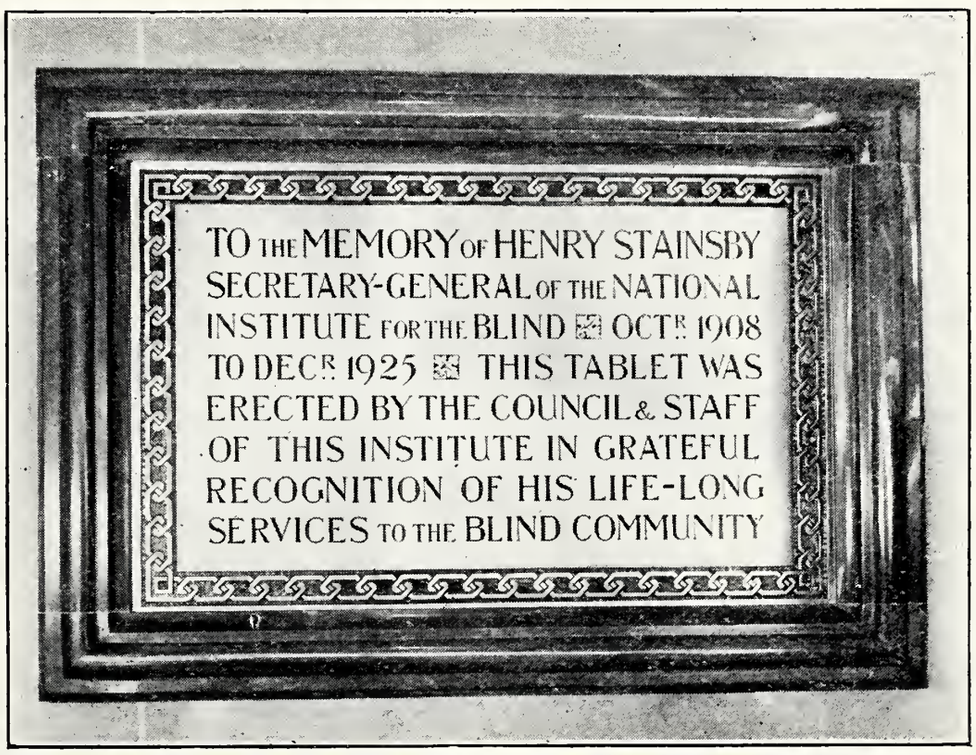
HENRY STAINSBY MEMORIAL

THE Henry Stainsby Memorial Fund Committee express their deep gratitude for the contributions received to date. These now amount to over £1,250, and an income of from £60 to £70 per annum should, therefore, be available for distribution in accordance with the terms of the Committee's recommendations. Many of the contributions, it is stated, consisted of small sums given in weekly instalments throughout a considerable period of time, and for these the Committee express their warm appreciation.

At the same time they wish to take the opportunity of reminding friends and well-wishers that contributions are still most acceptable, and should be sent as soon as possible, as they are now anxious to arrange for the appointment of a further Committee to administer the Fund.

A mural tablet, illustrated on this page, has been placed in the entrance hall of the National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street. Members of the Institute's staff will be pleased to know that the cost of making and erecting this tablet was defrayed from the first donations received from them.

The object of the Fund is to present gifts to pupils of recognised Institutions and Colleges for the Blind on completion of their training, these gifts to take the form of special apparatus, Braille writers, watches, or other useful appliances, all of which will bear the inscription "Henry Stainsby Memorial Gift." Those who knew the late Mr. Henry Stainsby feel that no more fitting tribute to his memory could have been devised than that of providing blind people with apparatus which they themselves could not afford to purchase; and it is in the hope of making the Fund a real success that the Committee again venture to put the matter before readers of this magazine.



MEMORIAL TABLET IN THE ENTRANCE HALL OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

MR. AMOS CLARKE, a blind man of Coalville, Leicestershire, who has been organist of the Coalville Parish Church for 55 years, has resigned. Apart from his duties at the church, Mr. Clarke has carried on a newsagent's business for a great many years. He distinguishes the papers by their size and touch, and rarely makes a mistake with either newspapers or change. During his long connection with the church he has never been late for a service.

WE learn that last month Worcester College boys, past and present, played the Oxford University at chess, and were victorious by three games. Rupert Cross, the clever blind chess player, aged 14, did wonderfully well. We are told that, after playing for three hours, he had not changed a single piece, and the whole 32 pieces were still on the board.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

FEBRUARY was a busy month for the Fund, opening on the 1st with the annual concert arranged by New Barnet " Helpers of the Blind." Mrs. Simmons is to be congratulated on sending up over £40 this year. Other Circles also organised a special event, the largest being the monster whist drive arranged by Mrs. London at Palmers Green. The newly-formed Edgware Circle, the Hornchurch and Romford Circles, also chose a similar event, and in addition Romford arranged an organ recital at St. Edward's Parish Church. Edmonton and Ilford selected a concert, that at the latter place being a very big event presided over by His Worship the Mayor, and numbering among the speakers Sir Frederick Wise, M.P. At Wandsworth the ex-Mayor and Mayoress attended in addition to the present holders of office.

On February 25th a new Circle was formed in Richmond and Kew. Despite the death of the then Mayor, it was a successful event, although further handicapped by the fact that the Viscountess Cave was unable to be present owing to the illness of the Lord Chancellor. Lady Moore was among those who attended, and the excellent speeches included one made by Dr. Austin Williams, who has had the care of a lady who has recently lost her sight. An experiment was made by combining the meeting with an exhibition and sale of goods made by home workers. Despite the bad weather, both the Fund and the Sale benefited considerably.

The blind artistes appeared at most of these events, and also provided the programme at the concert organised by Mrs. Heath at Enfield, when the speakers included members of the Middlesex County Council who have associated themselves with the work for the blind in the county. Other well-attended concerts were given at Sanderstead (arranged by the Men's Association), Yiewsley, Kingston, Grays, Loughton, Kenley (under the auspices of the Kenley Social Committee), Oxshott (a new district opened up by the kind co-operation of the Vicar and Miss Beatrice Dale), Acton, Clapham Common and Kew Gardens, where the event planned by Mr. Romer took place after being so rudely postponed from last year by the industrial dispute.

The social evening of the Printing and Kindred Trades Blind Aid Committee was referred to in the last issue of this magazine, but the Committee started its work for the Fund again by a fine concert at the Kingsway Hall, presided over by Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C.

Mr. Cooke's annual dance at Acton was another successful event, as were the boxing tournament arranged by the Stepney and Poplar Rifles and a number of appeals in various Masonic lodges made by Mr. H. C. Preece.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS

THE report of the examinations of the Royal Society of Arts during 1926 states that a very pleasing feature of the examination was the striking success obtained by blind candidates from the Royal Normal School and Worcester College for the Blind, who had been instructed in the use of the Braille system of shorthand, and entered the examination for the first time that year. All these candidates passed in a most creditable manner. The transcripts, which were typewritten, were very good, and the typing was really excellent. The examiner says in his report :—" In each case the examination was held under exactly the same conditions as those prevailing at other centres. The results are highly satisfactory, and great praise is due to both students and teachers. In view of the success which has been achieved on the present occasion, it is to be hoped that further inducements to take up the Braille system of shorthand will be held out to those who have been so sadly afflicted, and that increased facilities will be afforded them for attending the Royal Society of Arts examinations in the future."

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to March 14th, 511 wireless sets and 714 headphones were distributed among the blind.

As a result of the appeal, 345 wireless sets and 169 headphones have been received ; of these 15 sets and 8 headphones have been given during the past month.

Donations from private sources and grants from the National Institute for the Blind have enabled the Fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and the number distributed.

BOOK REVIEW

A BEACON FOR THE BLIND*



THE life of the blind Postmaster-General forms absorbing reading, and is an inspiring example to blind and sighted alike. Henry Fawcett's talents, his courage, humour and sense of balance, combine to form a personality strong enough to rise above circumstance and achieve success.

From the moment he became blind, at the age of 25, he resolved to disregard his handicap. In view of what he accomplished, it is of interest to read the following passage of an essay which he wrote when he was 14: "What can be so beautifully contrived and framed as the human Body, where there are innumerable parts, acting all in unity? . . . If one of these Parts go wrong, the whole Body is put out of Tune . . Is there any one Part of our Body which we could dispense with?. . . I think the answer 'No' must be evident to Everyone." "It is curious," remarks his biographer, "that Fawcett should have been called upon later by the loss of eyesight to contradict this childish statement, and to prove not only that we can get along without some of our most precious faculties, but that the law of compensation so works that we may be able to accomplish more by reason of the loss."

It is indeed matter for speculation whether Fawcett would have accomplished so much, and endeared himself so greatly to so many people, had he retained his sight.

Early in life he had determined on a political career, and he was resolved that blindness should not act as a deterrent. Of the opposition which he encountered and overcame, of his brilliant Parliamentary career, of his championship of the working man, of the disenfranchised woman, and of the poor of India, we read with the deepest interest. Comparing him to Abraham Lincoln, his biographer says: "He was a lusty swimmer on the tide of freedom."

Fawcett used to say that of all his work there was none on which he looked back with such unalloyed satisfaction as on that for the preservation of the commons resulting in the organisation known as the Commons Preservation Society.

His work for the poor of India was no less important, and was fittingly summarised at his death, when, at a big public meeting in Bombay, one of the speakers said: "He had so identified himself with the interests of India, and so fearlessly advocated the cause of the dumb millions of this poor country, that he had gained for himself the honorary title of the Member for India." . . .

But it is as Postmaster-General that his name will go down to history. This work he took up in the spirit in which all his work was conducted, regarding the Post Office "neither as an end in itself, nor as a money-making machine for the Government, but as an instrument which could be made of service, especially to the poor." In April, 1883, he wrote to his father: "Before I had been a fortnight at the Post Office I felt that there were five things to be done. 1, The Parcel Post. 2, The issue of Postal Orders. 3, The receipt of small savings in stamps, and the allowing of small sums to be invested in the Funds. 4, Increasing the facilities for life insurance and annuities. 5, Reducing the price of telegrams. The first four I have succeeded in getting done, and now the fifth is to be accomplished." Fawcett also introduced women into the Post Office service. Sir Robert Hunter said of him that he tried to make the Post Office an important social instrument for the amelioration of the State, and it is largely due to his work that the English Post Office system is regarded as a model by other countries to-day.

Interspersed in these pages, we are given delightful glimpses of Fawcett's family life, of the bond of common ideals which existed between him and his wife, of his deep affection for parents and sister, and of his love for young people. We see him fearlessly pursuing his beloved recreations, skating, riding, fishing and walking. We feel ourselves in the presence of a dominant yet kindly personality.

Readers will find this book as entertaining as it is invigorating. E. G.

*A BEACON FOR THE BLIND—The Life of Henry Fawcett, the Blind Postmaster-General, by Winifred Holt (A Reprint: Messrs. Constable, 2/6 net).

We learn from *The Christian World* that the Christian Literature Society in China is, for the first time, issuing a book in Braille.

WIRELESS PROGRAMMES IN BRAILLE

OWING to the generous response of the public to the Wireless Appeal recently made by Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., and to the kind co-operation of the British Broadcasting Corporation and the *Radio Times*, the National Institute for the Blind hopes to issue very shortly a condensed weekly Wireless Programme in Braille. The price of this periodical, which will be known as *The Braille Radio Times*, will probably be 1d. per copy, or 6s. 6d. per annum post free, and it is hoped that it will provide an adequate wireless programme for the current week.

It is not possible at the moment to give the exact date of publication, but a specimen copy should be available early this month, and will be sent post free to all applicants. Applications should be addressed to the General Editor, National Institute for the Blind, 224-8 Great Portland Street, W.1.

MISS JEAN STERLING MACKINLAY'S RECITAL

ON March 11th, Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay gave a delightful song-recital at the Armitage Hall, National Institute for the Blind, in aid of the Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies. The Hall was packed to overflowing, and the large audience showed their keen appreciation of old favourites, amongst which were "Shenandoah," "Green grow the rashes, oh!" "William Taylor," "Il était une Bergère" and "Me suis mise en danse," whilst less well-known songs, such as "The Outlandish Knight," "All round my Hat," "Mariscka" and others were given a warm reception.

As one of her encores, Miss Mackinlay, who, as readers are doubtless aware, emphasises the different groups of her songs by changes of costume, gave the old favourite "Johnny's so long at the Fair," to which she added a dramatic but wordless finale, showing the appearance of Johnny, dismay changed to joy, and the effective adjustment of the blue ribbons in the "bonny brown hair." Mr. Maurice Jacobson was an ideal accompanist.

Captain Sir E. B. B. Towse appealed for the Blind Babies' Homes, and a silver collection was taken.

Sincere thanks are due to Miss Sterling Mackinlay for having so generously given an evening to the cause of the blind babies and for charming all hearts by her inimitable rendering of these old-world ballads.

A BLIND VIOLINIST

MR. ERNEST WHITFIELD gave a very successful violin recital at the Grotian Hall on February 22nd, of which the *Musical Standard* writes as follows :—

"Mr. Ernest Whitfield who gave a joint recital at the Grotian Hall on February 22nd, with Miss Ethel Bartlett, is a blind musician. He played Beethoven's Sonata in G on that occasion, and (this year being the Beethoven Centenary) it is interesting to know that he included in his repertoire all Beethoven's violin works, including the ten sonatas. Probably he is the only musician who knows all these works entirely from memory. This was necessitated by his blindness—a little known fact, perhaps due to the very high degree of Mr. Whitfield's accomplishments. To an audience unaware that he is blind he appears to be in full possession of his eyesight, and his execution accentuates the belief. Mr. Whitfield is, we believe, the first English musician to appear in Vienna after the war, and his concerts were very favourably reviewed by German and Austrian critics."

IN THE MIND'S EYE

IT is now some fifteen years or more since I saw a football match, says F.E.B. in the *Daily Herald*.

I have almost forgotten the sight of the green patch with the 22 men arrayed in lines ready to match their brains and brawn against their opponents.

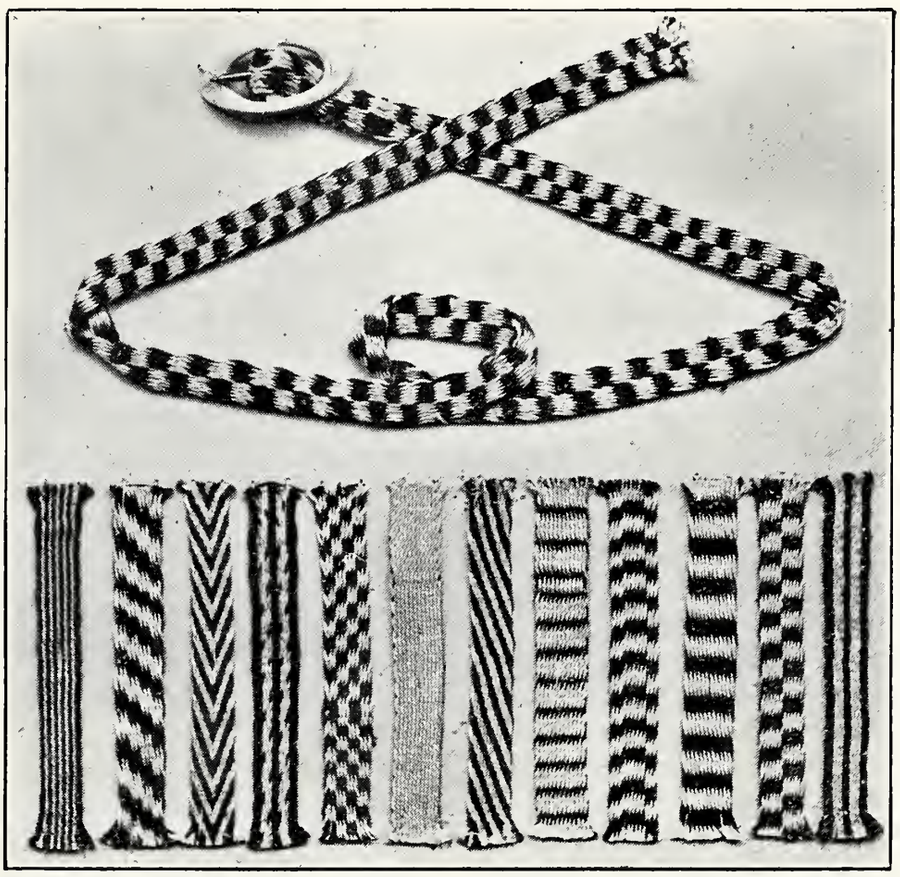
But last Saturday I once again saw the forwards dashing along in beautiful formation, the halfs and backs pitting their wits, the corner-kick being taken by the fast right-winger, the acceptance of the ball by another of the forwards, the clever manœuvring for an opening, and finally, the well-deserved goal.

Such has the wonderful invention of man brought to my sightless eyes. Let no man after this condemn the radio in my presence. At last there is at least one person in the country who is satisfied with the programme.

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

TABLET WEAVING

"IT is true in weaving as in all the Arts that the best results are always obtained by the simplest means." This is strikingly exemplified in the case of tablet or card weaving—a pre-historic form of weaving and one still practised by primitive peoples—for in this craft the very minimum of apparatus is needed, and yet a wonderful variety of simple pattern is possible. Nor is any great amount of skill required. The pattern is arranged for in the preliminary threading of the tablets; the actual weaving consists simply in turning the bunch of tablets, passing the weft thread backwards and forwards, and pressing the work close. If the tablets have been correctly threaded in the first instance, if they are kept in correct position relative to one another throughout the weaving, and if the simple operations of the weaving are carried out properly and in regular sequence—then the predetermined pattern will work itself out, repeat after repeat, with infallible accuracy. Sighted assistance is necessary for the preliminary threading of the tablets, but there seems no reason why a sightless worker should not successfully do the weaving.



Two-Colour Braids Woven on Twelve Tablets, and a Lady's Belt

The scope of tablet weaving is limited to the production of stout, narrow tapes or braids which can, however, be used for a variety of purposes, *e.g.*, for the making of belts, braces and ties, and for dress trimmings.

Equipment.—The essential part of the equipment is the set of tablets. These are square with sides about two inches in length, and may be of stout card, thin wood, or celluloid. Celluloid tablets can be had from the Dryad Handicrafts, 42 St. Nicholas Street, Leicester, at 1/9 per dozen. The tablets have a hole near each corner through which the warp threads pass, and it is suggested that a small nick be made at one corner of each tablet to enable the worker to ascertain from time to time during the weaving whether every one is in correct position. Twelve tablets will be enough for a beginning, this number being added to gradually as the skill of the worker increases, until as many as perhaps fifty can be used with ease.

For keeping the warp stretched tightly during the weaving, various kinds of "loom" have been suggested; but if the following arrangement be adopted there will be no need to procure any special apparatus: The worker seats himself at the end of an ordinary table, having first placed a chair at either side, with its back resting against the edge of the table. Supposing that twelve tablets are to be used, forty-eight warp threads will have been cut out and threaded through the holes in the tablets, each tablet after being threaded having been laid exactly above the preceding one.

The end of the complete warp on the left of the tablets is now tied to the nearer of the uprights of the back of the left hand chair, and the right hand part of the warp is tied to the corresponding upright of the right hand chair. This chair is pushed along the edge of the table away from the worker, to make the warp quite taut, and the bunch of tablets will now be suspended about an inch above the table and two or three inches from the left hand chair all ready to begin weaving.

Some sort of shuttle for holding the weft thread will be necessary, and for this a piece of flat, hard wood about six inches in length and half an inch in width, with a curved notch at either end, is quite suitable ; an ordinary small netting needle, if available, is just the thing.

For beating the work close a paper knife or some similar flat, blunt-edged implement is used.

Material.—Stout, well-twisted mercerised cotton is as good a material as any for the warp. In tablet weaving the weft is of minor importance, its office being simply to hold the warp together. Thread somewhat thinner than that used for the warp should be chosen.

How the Patterns are Formed.—The turning of the tablets has the effect of forming each four threads into a rope-like twist running the length of the braid. The tablets are turned all together one-quarter turn at a time, so that when four turns have been made each tablet will be in its original position. Each of the four threads forming a twist comes to the surface of the braid in turn, and shows there as a small oblique mark or stitch, and the pattern is formed by arranging the threading and placing together of the tablets so that a thread of a particular colour appears on the surface of the braid as and when required. For example, suppose we thread twelve tablets with three white threads and one red one each, and place them one above the other so that all the red threads are in line. The result of this arrangement will be that all the red threads will come to the surface of the braid together once out of every four turns, giving a series of transverse red lines at regular intervals along the braid. Longitudinal stripes are obtained by threading each of the required number of tablets with four threads of the same colour, and checks, chevrons, or oblique lines can be obtained just as easily.

Weaving.—Having prepared the warp as described above, it will be seen that a shed exists in the centre of the warp to the left of the tablets, and through this shed the firs shoot of weft is passed. The tablets are now turned one-quarter turn, the work pressed close, the shuttle passed back, the tablets turned another quarter turn, the work pressed close again, and so on, repeating these three movements till the threads on the right of the tablets become so tightly twisted as to prevent further turning in the one direction. It then becomes necessary to reverse the direction of the turning, and this is done as often as required. When the weaving gets close to the right hand chair, the warp is untied at both ends, the tablets are brought back to the position they occupied at the beginning, and the warp tied to the chairs again.

A booklet on Tablet Weaving is published by the Dryad Handicrafts and a larger work by Pitman's (Tablet Weaving, by Luther Hooper); to both of these excellent handbooks the writer acknowledges his indebtedness. A. G. K.

A BIRTHDAY PARTY AT THE GUILDHALL

A VERY happy company of boys and girls gathered at the Guildhall on Saturday afternoon, the 5th March, for the young people's birthday party, held to mark the 123rd anniversary of the birthday of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Lord Mayor arrived in full state precisely at 3 o'clock to take the chair, accompanied by his little daughter, Miss Janet Blades, who in the course of the proceedings undertook the pleasing duty (watched by very many pairs of interested young eyes) of cutting the birthday cake, which, weighing 123 pounds, was subsequently cut up so that each guest might receive a portion upon leaving the Guildhall. Three hymns were sung, led by a Salvation Army band. Passages from the Old and New Testaments were read from Braille type by two junior pupils from the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage.

AN Industrial Home for the Blind has been opened in Bombay. This Home owes its existence to the late Mr. Dharmaji, whose name it bears, and who made a provision in his will for Rs.80,000 to be set apart for the relief of the blind. The administration of the fund and the conduct of the Home have been entrusted by the High Court to the Blind Relief Association of Bombay, which is doing valuable work all over the Presidency.

THE MODERN BLIND MASSEUR AND MASSEUSE



EAR after year it becomes more evident that massage is one of the professions which can most successfully be practised by blind people. Year after year the Massage School of the National Institute for the Blind turns out an increasing number of qualified members of this profession, the merit of whose work is acclaimed wherever they practise.

In advocating massage as a suitable career for educated blind people, we have again and again laid stress on the word "educated." The nature of the examinations alone precludes the possibility of any but educated people attempting this calling, and it is therefore not surprising to hear that most of the blind men and women connected with it have intellectual interests over and above that of their work. The cheery group on this page, consisting of students, together with the Principal of the School, the Anatomy Lecturer, and the Secretary forms no exception to this rule. Three of these students, by the way: Miss V. Chater, on the extreme left; Mr. G. S. Cox, on the extreme left of the back row; and Mr. T. F. Fernberg, second from the right on the back row, all successfully qualified at the December, 1926, examination. Mr. D. K. Peacock, second on the left in the back row; Mr. E. A. Steel, on the extreme right of the back row; and Mr. W. Coates, on the extreme right of the front row, are still in training. Miss Chater, who is an excellent masseuse, is a skilled musician, and plays the 'cello with delicacy of touch and great musical understanding. Mr. Coates was educated at Worcester College and Oxford, where he took his Honours Degree at Queen's. He has written some delightful poems, a number of which have been published by the *Poetry Review*, and is extremely musical, his instrument being the piano. Indeed, massage and music seem to blend well, for we find that the Principal of the School, Mr. Percy Linney Way, is an accomplished musician. He studied music at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, specialising in the piano and organ, passed the examination for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, and subsequently occupied the post of Organist and Choirmaster at ChristChurch, Albany Street, N.W. Later he took up the profession of massage, and the story of how he passed the Chartered Society's examinations in competition with some three hundred sighted candidates, heading the list with distinction on two separate occasions, has been told elsewhere in these pages.



A Group from the Massage School, National Institute for the Blind

In the front row of our picture, the second on the right, is Mr. Walter Krohn, Lecturer in Anatomy at the Institute's Massage School, who also assists in training students in medical electricity under Dr. Murray Levick. Mr. Krohn is also musical, but his chief hobby is wireless, in connection with which there is literally nothing he does not know.

There are two St. Dunstaners in this little group: Mr. D. K. Peacock, 2nd Lieut., Tank Corps, and Mr. E. A. Steel, Rifleman, 8th King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Miss Chater, Mr. Coates, and Mr. Cox (who was formerly an analytical chemist) held Gardner Scholarships.

We would like in conclusion to add a few words concerning the one sighted member of this little group. Mrs. F. Chaplin Hall, whose artistic and literary tastes are well known, has held the position of Secretary of the Massage Department and School for twelve years and is also the Organising Secretary of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs, the work of which is closely connected with that of the Institute's Massage Department. Mrs. Hall may be said to be the guiding spirit of both these organisations. She has watched the Massage School grow up from small beginnings, and it is greatly due to her power of organisation and to her capacity for downright hard work, that it has attained the position which it holds at the present day.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

BIOGRAPHY.

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
A. Russell.	Lord Kelvin	1

CLASSICS.

Euripides,	Iphiginia in Tauris (Trans. by G. F. H. Sykes and J. H. Haydon)	1
Homer's Odyssey,	Books 9 to 14 (Trans. by J. H. Haydon and A. H. Allcroft)	2
Seneca,	Morals (Trans. Ed. by W. Clode)	3
Tacitus,	Germania (Trans. by A. J. Church)	1

ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE.

Wheeler, J. F.	Stock Exchange	1

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Herford, C. H.	Shakespeare	1

HISTORY.

Motley, J. L.	Rise of the Dutch Republic (Narratives from)	2

LAW.

Stevens'	Mercantile Law (Ed. by H. Jacobs) ..	11

MISCELLANEOUS.

Collier, J.	Religion of an Artist	1
Gardner, E. G.	Story of Florence	5

PHILOSOPHY.

Lindsay, A. D.	Philosophy of Kant	1

POLITICAL SCIENCE.

Ilbert, Sir C.	Parliament	3

SCIENCE.

Jones, E. O.	Introduction to Anthropology ..	3

THEOLOGY AND RELIGION.

Roydon, M.	Christ Triumphant	2
Roydon, M.	Political Christianity	2
Westermarck, E.	Goodness of Gods	1

Though totally blind, Miss Eleanor Judd, of Washington, is a successful entertainer and University graduate. She sings, writes verse and prose, dances, types, and plays cards—a good record of versatility.

ESPERANTO FOR THE BLIND

THE *Internacia Radio Revuo* has some interesting references to the facilities which Esperanto gives to the blind. The article starts with an appreciation of wireless for the blind, and goes on to say : " While in all parts of the world there are nearly 150 wireless journals for those who have their sight, the blind have had no organ of their own to guide and counsel them in their wireless work. This can easily be explained. Printing in relief is costly ; a wireless paper for the blind in each country would have only a small number of subscribers, and in this case it is more than ever true that the smaller the number of copies printed the dearer each is.

" It is therefore natural that only on an international scale, and consequently in an international language, could such a journal appear. It was for this reason that, immediately after the appearance of No. 1-2 of *Internacia Radio Revuo*, the Swedish Esperantist, Mr. Harald Thilander, editor and publisher of *Esperanta Ligilo* for the blind, himself a blind man, proposed to us that we should issue an edition of our *Revuo* in Braille type. To this we heartily consented. Six numbers of the edition for the blind have already been published, bringing joy to unhappy sufferers throughout the world. The financial success of this courageous undertaking has been already assured by the number of subscribers. Obviously the publication supplied an urgent need.

" The internationality of those engaged in its production is noteworthy : the publisher is Swedish ; one editor is French, Dr. Pierre Corret ; the other is Russian, Mr. E. Aisberg ; the designer (for the edition for the blind has special diagrams and drawings) is Mr. Holmes, an Englishman. This publication will not only bring many blind people to the study of Esperanto, but will convince those who still enjoy their sight of the great uses to which Esperanto can be put.—E. Aisberg."

Price of edition for the blind. Per year 1.20 dollars. Single copy .10 dollar. Double number .20 dollar. So far only double numbers have appeared. No. 1-2, No. 3-4, and No. 5-6. Obtainable from Mr. Harald Thilander, Majorsgatan, 12 Stockholm, Sweden.

PENSIONS FOR THE BLIND IN NEW ZEALAND

WE have received a copy of the New Zealand Blind Pensions Act, 1926, which contains full details of the Blind Pension which came into operation in 1924.

One of the conditions which regulate the payment of such pensions is that the applicant must have resided continuously in New Zealand for not less than ten years immediately preceding the date of his application. Another is that he must have either been born blind in New Zealand, or become blind while permanently resident in New Zealand, or he must have been permanently resident in that country for not less than ten years before the date of the passing of the Pensions Amendment Act, 1924, or for not less than 25 years before the date of his application. His relatives should not be in a position to maintain him, and he must be of good character and sober habits.

The amount of pension payable is at the rate of £45 10s. 0d. per annum. In addition there shall be payable to any such blind person who may be employed in any occupation an additional weekly allowance equal to 25 per cent. of his average weekly earnings for the year, but in no case shall his total receipts exceed the rate of £3 12s. 6d. per week. No person shall receive a pension whilst he is an inmate of an institution controlled by any department of State, and any instalment of any such pension which falls due while the pensioner is resident out of New Zealand shall be forfeited.

In a covering letter Mr. Clutha Mackenzie, Director of the Jubilee Institute for the Blind, Auckland, explains the provisions as follows :

"What it amounts to in practice is that the ordinary blind person, not possessing more than a certain maximum of private means, receives 17/6 per week. If he is a worker receiving wages, these will be augmented by an additional pension amounting to 25 per cent. of the wages, but so that the total receipts from all sources shall not amount to more than £3 12s. 6d. per week. This means that a man earning £2 4s. 0d. will receive 17/6 flat rate of pension and 11/- pension by way of subsidy on earnings, making a total of £3 12s. 6d. Thereafter, any additional amount earned is counterbalanced by a corresponding decrease in the pension, so that a worker's earnings have to increase from £2 4s. 0d. per week to a sum beyond £3 12s. 6d. per week before he receives any financial benefit from his increased earnings. This, to my mind, is a weakness in our blind pension system, as it discourages the average worker from aiming at a higher rate of wage than £2 4s. 0d. per week ; and it seems rather hard that our piano tuners, masseurs, etc.—who, by the exercise of much courage and effort, have brought their earnings up to £4 or £5 per week—should be deprived of the benefit of the pension.

"However, by the introduction of the pension, we have made a big step forward. Opponents of the pension stress the fact that by granting it, the Government would be encouraging the blind to live in idleness, and not to seek training and employment. Our experience during the past two years has, I think, not shown any serious tendency in this direction, though I can call to mind one or two cases which might have come to us had it not been for the Blind Pension. On the whole, however, I think the pension of inestimable benefit, especially in the case of elderly and invalid blind, and particularly to semi-invalid blind women, living in their homes, who had hitherto been entirely penniless, and felt themselves to be a heavy burden on their relatives.

"I may say that paragraph 'C,' subsection 2, regarding capacity of relatives to maintain, is not by any means rigidly enforced.

"The novel feature of the N.Z. Blind Pension Act is the 'subsidy on earnings.'"

MICHAEL HAMBOURG, the blind swimmer, of Toronto, has announced his intention of competing for the £10,000 prize for a swim from Youngstown, New York State, to Toronto, a distance of 31 miles. When swimming, Hambourg is guided by a buzzer in an accompanying boat.

Life is sweet, brother.
In sickness, Jasper?
There's the sun and the stars, brother.
In blindness, Jasper?
There's the wind on the heath, brother.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

LIST OF ADDITIONS

February and March, 1927.

FICTION.

Andrews, A. G. In the Days of Lorenzo the Magnificent .. .. 4 vols.
" Anon." House Made with Hands .. .. 4 vols.
Beresford, J. D. Prisoners of Hartling .. 4 vols.
Birmingham, G. A. Gun-Runners .. .. 3 vols.
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2365	St. John, Chapter 1 (Giant Type)		3 6

GERANIUM DAY

Friday, May 13th, and Saturday, May 14th, are fixed for "Geranium Days" this year. Helpers are urgently needed for this great combined Appeal made by the Greater London Fund for the Blind (conducted by the National Institute for the Blind) on behalf of the participating societies and institutions, namely: Barclay Workshop for Blind Women (with which is incorporated Eyes to the Blind Society); Blind Employment Factory, Waterloo Road (Department of the Royal School for the Indigent Blind); Incorporated Association for the Welfare of the Blind; London Association for the Blind; London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind (with which is incorporated West London Workshops for the Blind); Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Associations for the Blind; National Institute for the Blind; The Workshops for the Blind of Kent, etc. (All registered under the Blind Persons Act, 1920.)

Will those who can help sell Geraniums or assist in any other way, write to the Chief Social Organiser, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1. (Telephone: Museum 9704.

BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Progress—The Pageant of Parliament—Cairo—Mr. Chen and his Family—Music on the Wireless (Poem)—Correspondence—Advertisements—Matters of the Moment—Our Prize Competitions—Nursery Rhymes—A Lion in the Limelight—In a Pepper Works—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page: La Cloche D'Atri (Contes et Légendes), The Dean and Wendy. Supplements: "Progress" Chess; Home Occupations for the Blind: Wooden Tray Making; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—The Chinese Problem through Chinese Eyes—On Form and Style (concluded)—The Romance of Banking—N.I.B.: Reading Competition—Reviews of New Books—Pestalozzi: A Remembrance—Stories of the London Zoo. Supplement: Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—Handwork, No. 10: How to make an ornamental box for logs or coal—Sir Hugh Myddelton and London's Water Supply—The Story of the Post Office, No. 3: The Story of the Telephone—Shanghai—King Winter (Poem)—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—Why do Fish Leave Home? Supplements: "Comrades"; The Map of the Basin of the Severn; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Studies in Pianoforte Interpretation, XVI., Final Article—Piano Music of the "Etude" Type in the N.I.B. Catalogue—Note to Organists—Recent Musical Successes—London College of Music—N.I.B.: Reading Competition—The Little Organ-Book of Bach—Supplements: Braille Music Reviews; Insets: Piano: "The Hornpipe," by Handel, arranged by Percy Grainger; Song: "Diaphenia," by H. Samuel. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Sprains of the Wrist—Flaccid Paralysis: Causes and Treatment—News in the Massage World—Additions to the Massage Library—Section of Neurology and Psychology (continued). Supplements: "Massage Journal" Inset: Official Notices; State Registration (continued); Announcements. (6d. per copy, 6s. per annum, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland.)—Editorial Notes—Favourite Quotations—News Items—Gas or Vapour Density—The Year 1920, and After—International Notes—Stageland—The Poet's Corner—Impossible Epitaphs—The Laureate of the Natural Man—Advertisements and General Notices. Supplements: Literary: "The Faith of the Protestant Christian"; "Single Blessedness." Music: History of a Song: "Life on the Ocean Wave," by A. B. Cooper; Piano: "Polish Dance in E flat minor," Op. 3, Scharwenka. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—Birds that Eat 7 lbs. of Fish a Day (Daily Mail)—India Moving the Right Way—100 Swimmers in a Race (Children's Newspaper)—A Lady of the Sea (Morning Post)—Our Wonderful Sun—National Library for the Blind: Reading Competition—Gabriel Samara, Book I, chapters X-XII, E. Phillips Oppenheim—Thought for the Month—The Sea's Abundant Progeny—(John o' London's Weekly)—The Bank's New Vaults. (1s. 8d. per month, post free.)

The Light Bringer.—From the Braille Room: New Pamphlets; New Books; Lectures in May and June: Voltaire—A Study in Consciousness, II (Chapter VI), by Mrs. Besant—Thought-Power (Chapter IV), by Mrs. Besant—The Unvoiced Life, by Sir J. C. Bose—Still Waters, by A. Pagan—Astrology, by E. L. Foyster—How I became a member of the Theosophical Society, by S. L. Bensusan—Personalities—Reincarnation proved by Hypnotic Research, by I. H. Moll.

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

Moon Magazine.—Lunch for Two—The Valentine's Day—Sounds that Soar—First Atlantic Wireless—Lodgers at the Zoo—When Dogs Dream—Man who Saved a Town—The Blackberry in New Zealand—Beer at the Bank—Resurrection. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 9s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Senior Lady Home Teacher, fully qualified (sighted), required by the Northamptonshire (Town and County) Association for the Blind, with a view to taking control of Home Teaching and Welfare Work. Considerable experience of Welfare Work essential. Apply, stating age, training and experience, with salary required, and enclosing copies of testimonials, to HORACE E. LACEY, General Secretary, 15 Guildhall Road, Northampton.

WANTED—Qualified **Home Teacher** for North Westmorland. Salary, £3 per week, plus expenses. Apply, THE SECRETARY, Cumberland and Westmorland Home and Workshops for the Blind, 22 and 24 Lonsdale Street, Carlisle.

All Advertisements should reach the Editor not later than the 20th of the month preceding that of publication.

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1927

MAY

Vol. XI No. 125

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire. The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	CHURCH—		
7722	"Make thee clean, my heart, from sin," Bass Air from "St. Matthew Passion," by Bach (B flat: Compass B, to E'), pocket size	2	0
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	Three Nouvelles Etudes (Bar by bar), by Chopin—		
7736	No. 1 in F minor, pocket size	2	0
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7738	No. 3 in D flat, pocket size	2	0
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7741	Entr'acte No. 1 in B minor, from "Rosamond," by Schubert (Bar by bar)	2	0
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7748	"Picardy," Song Fox-Trot, by Rose, Campbell and Connelly (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
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BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

	EDUCATIONAL—		
7445-7446	"The Art of Writing Verse," by Editha Jenkinson, pocket size, 2 pamphlets	each 1	9

(*Continued on page* 16)

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XI.—NO. 125. MAY, 1927. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

THE WORK OF THE HOMES COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND



THE work of the Homes Committee of the National Institute for the Blind covers a very wide field, as blind babies, the adult blind and the aged blind all come within its scope.

Mr. G. F. Mowatt is Chairman of this Committee, which consists of Mrs. Kitchin, Mrs. Tydeman, Mrs. Sandford, Miss Mowatt, Mr. H. J. Wagg, Mr. A. J. W. Kitchin, Mr. J. Mulhall, and Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse.

As its name implies, the Committee controls the various Homes administered and, with one exception, established, by the National Institute, namely, the Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies at Chorley Wood, Southport and Leamington Spa; the Homes for Blind Women at Brighton and Clifton; the Guest House for Gentlewomen in reduced circumstances at Hoole Bank, Chester; the Convalescent and Holiday Home at St. Leonards-on-Sea, and the Hostel for Blind Women in London. These Homes have all been fully described from time to time in *The Beacon*, so we need not now dwell upon details. But it will be of interest to give our readers a little insight into the central management of a group of scattered Homes, chiefly as illustrating the national outlook in philanthropic work, but, additionally, as illustrating the care and pains which are taken in dealing with blind individuals. We emphasise this latter point because of the general though mistaken idea that in national work the individual is frequently swamped in the group.

Naturally, the main duty of the Homes Committee is to control and administer the Homes in such a fashion as to obtain a maximum result at a minimum expenditure. It sounds easy and it sounds trite, but it is nevertheless just such a duty which has occupied all governing bodies since the beginning of social work—sometimes with complete failure, at others with partial success, but never with complete success. We refer, of course, to progressive work, that is, the only truly living work, in which success to any degree always proportionately impels vision and for ever renders elusive a " maximum result."

We may conclude, therefore, that the work of the Homes Committee is not bounded by the number and extent of the present Homes. Such questions as whether an existing Home can be more economically managed if extended with wider service, or whether the need of additional service warrants a new departure, or whether the type of work carried on at one Home can be more usefully supplemented by changing the character of the work undertaken at another Home, have to be considered in all their remotest details by the Committee. And without a doubt such continuous investigation and judicious probing of a subject must always keep the specific knowledge up-to-date, and necessarily lead to a wider vision

and a more accomplished judgment. Therein lies the true benefit of national work, from the points of view of both economy and utility. There is no concealment in a valley, no compression within a boundary. The highest peaks provide the only possible aspect, and from the highest peaks the object under investigation is not a town but a province, not a province but a country, not individuals but a community. Yet the observation should be so keen, that not one goes unobserved, and not one passes by unrelieved. That, at any rate, is the ideal, and the National Institute has always cherished ideals. Personally, we should like to see National Institute Homes, for babies, for the sick, or for the aged, dotted all over England and Wales, as, from what we know of the existing Homes, the service to the blind given by them is of the highest quality, and deserves, in the interests of the blind themselves, to be extended.

The administration of the Homes entails a great deal of work. In the first place, each Home should be as familiar to each member of the Committee as his or her home ; periodical visits must therefore be made—visits not merely of inspection but of inspiration, visits not merely to criticise but to praise.

All Matrons and Matrons' Assistants must be appointed by the Committee, and all other appointments of officers and domestics must be approved by it. Such appointments as Honorary Medical Officers, Dentists, Architects, etc., all have to be considered or arranged for and approved.

But apart from, and more important than the many administrative duties is the examination of individual cases. In this work, the greatest powers of judgment and tact must be exercised. As we have often pointed out in *The Beacon*, blind individuals are as variable in nature as individuals with eyesight, and there are as many points to be considered in dealing with the upbringing, care and welfare of blind people as in dealing with sighted people. Such work indeed is infinitely difficult, as the training and welfare facilities available for the blind are as nothing compared with those available for the general public. In fact, it is only of recent years that the blind have emerged from that throttling attitude which persisted in regarding them as an abnormal class with an even and unchanging strain of abnormality, incapable of distinct personality and individual growth.

Let us take a few items from the subjects under discussion at a recent meeting of the Committee, just as an example of the multifarious character of its work.

Election of a new member of Committee.
Report of Method of Sanitation at Chorley Wood Home.
Report on Water Supply at Chorley Wood Home.
Appointments.
Report of visit of member of Committee to Chorley Wood Home.
Appointment of Teacher and detailed scope of her work at Southport Home.
Report of visit by member of Committee to Southport Home.
Ventilation of Bedrooms at Southport Home.
Report of visit by two members of Committee to Leamington Home.
General report on Blind Babies' Homes, including individual health reports and reports of Medical Officer on applications for admission.
Arrangements for medical examination in local districts.
Proposed Revised Rules for Girls' Hostel.
Consideration of proposed new Hostel for Women Employees.
Report of Matron, Hoole Bank Guest House.
Report of Matron, Convalescent Home, St. Leonards.

But we need not extend this list, as the items cover two or three more pages in the Minutes of this one meeting, and those we have given sufficiently prove that the Committee has work of a nature which requires administrative powers of a high order combined with wide knowledge of and genuine sympathy with the blind of all classes.

All applications for permanent or temporary admission to the Homes are naturally considered by the Committee. But its work on each case does not end there. Its members take an active interest in all cases *in* the Homes apart from those outside, and also consider as one of their duties the creation of local interest in all such cases. There is nothing which so differentiates a Home from an institution as the warmth of a pet name in place of the frigidity of a ward number.

In connection with the Blind Babies' Homes, all babies are examined by approved consultants prior to admission, and arrangements are made for the transfer of babies on attaining the requisite age or standard of education to certified schools for the blind. No normal blind baby leaves the Homes until a vacancy in such schools has been secured for it, and in nearly every instance a direct transfer is made. Records of the history of every child, from the time of admission until the time of discharge, are kept, and a copy of the complete record is passed on to the child's

new school. Such records include those of the Matron, the Medical Officer, the Ophthalmic Surgeon, the Dentist and the Head Teacher.

The following table relative to the Blind Babies' Homes is of interest in showing the variability of this single branch of the Committee's work :—

BLIND BABIES, GENERAL.

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1927 :—

	Chorley Wood	Southport	Leamington	Total
Number in the Homes 31st March, 1926..	24	22	26	72
Add Admissions during year	4	13	10	27
	28	35	36	99
Less Discharges ..	5	6	5	16
Totals on 31st March, 1927	23	29	31	83

DISCHARGES.

Transferred to Residential Schools for the Blind	8
Transferred to Day Schools for the Blind	2
Transferred to Day Class for Partially Sighted Children ..	1
Transferred to Home for Sighted Children—sight improved ..	1
Unsuitable for retention—Mental and Physical Disabilities ..	4

EXAMINATION OF BLIND BABIES BY CONSULTANTS DURING YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1927

Nine babies were examined and rejected on account of mental and physical disabilities.

NUMBER AT PRESENT IN HOMES.

Chorley Wood	23
Southport	30
Leamington	31
	84

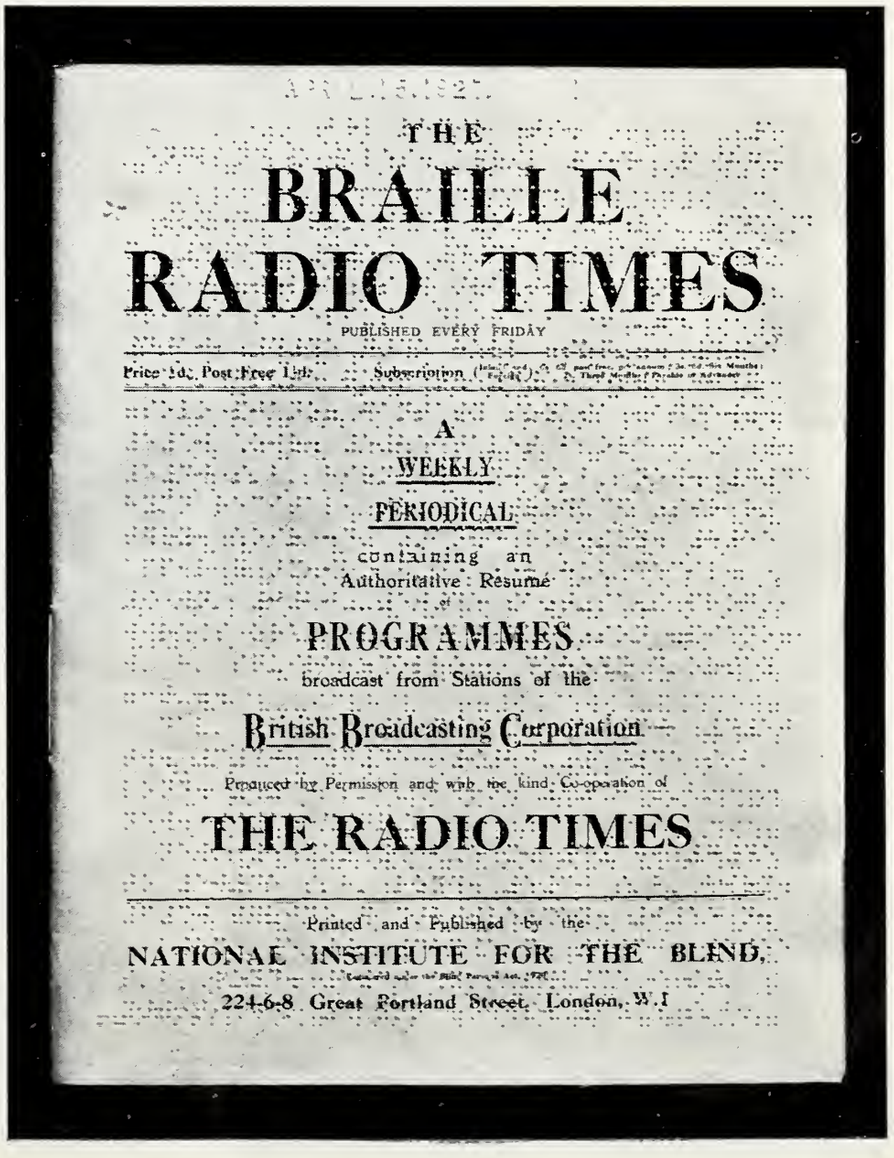
Number on Provisional Waiting List, 3.

These few details suffice, we believe, to show the great care taken by the Homes Committee to fulfil efficiently its two duties, namely, to see that the Institute's Homes are administered in a wide and liberal manner, so that they may benefit the blind nationally ; and, at the same time, to do its best to better the lot of every individual resident at any time in the Homes. THE EDITOR.

THE "BRAILLE RADIO TIMES"

ON this page we reproduce the cover of the new embossed publication, the "Braille Radio Times." Specimen copies were printed a short time ago and distributed to readers of the "Braille Mail." They are obtainable on application from the National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, and the first number of the periodical will be published on May 6th. The price will be 1d. per copy, or 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.

Readers should place their orders as soon as possible, and those who wish to obtain their copies from their newsagents should do so immediately, in order that the necessary arrangements may be made to meet the demand. It is anticipated that the "Braille Radio Times" will receive a cordial welcome in the blind community, and many congratulatory letters have greeted the project.



THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

THE American Foundation for the Blind, which was founded some six years ago, has issued a comprehensive report of its activities during 1926. The principal subjects which have absorbed the attention of the department devoted to research and education under the directorship of Mr. Robert B. Irwin are: Promoting educational efficiency, promoting public efficiency, increasing the number of Braille books, surveying vocations for the blind, providing scholarships, furthering the interests of blind osteopaths, accumulating a special library service, and providing radios for the blind.

Among interesting items of information, Mr. Irwin states that his Department has been giving attention to the Dalton plan of administration of schools for seeing children, as practised at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage. During the year progress in the development of Braille embossing is reported, special attention having been given to perfecting the process of embossing on both sides of the paper.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Foundation last autumn, it was voted that the Bureau of Research should undertake the study of the employment of the blind.

In order to obtain the necessary information and data for this subject, the services of all who are professionally interested in the world of the blind are called into requisition, and the Director states that the response has been most gratifying. The Foundation must supply adequate assistance in handling this central office work connected with assembling and analysing the data. It must also supply sufficient guidance in the field to simplify the work of the local co-operating agencies, and to standardise the material submitted.

It is reported that scholarships to the number of nine were awarded to blind people during the year.

The significance of wireless to the blind is, of course, as much appreciated in America as it is in this country, and Mr. Powell Crosley, Jnr., President of the Crosley Radio Corporation of Cincinnati, has offered the Foundation 500 two-valve radio sets to be given to needy blind people on condition that the Foundation equip them with the necessary accessories. Arrangements have been made with the Radio Corporation of America and with the Atwater Kent Manufacturing Company, by which radio sets will be supplied to blind people at a substantial discount.

The Bureau of Information and Publicity, under the Directorship of Mr. Charles B. Hayes, has been assembling data for the Directory of Activities for the Blind in the United States and Canada, which should be most valuable. This Department reports on the work of the letterpress magazine "Outlook for the Blind." As the organ of the Foundation, and as a journal of the professions of workers for the blind, this magazine, which is known to many readers in England, is becoming increasingly valuable. Further, Mr. Hayes reports on field service in Nebraska and activities in various other States; also on the Helen Keller Campaign Tour, which he conducted for six months. This campaign covered seventy cities, nine States, and one hundred and ten meetings, affording an excellent opportunity of presenting to approximately 120,000 people the work of the blind in general in America and the aim and scope of the Foundation for the Blind in particular.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

BIOGRAPHY.

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
Massom, R.	Robert Louis Stevenson	1

CLASSICS.

Gilbert Murray (trans. by).	Aristophanes: Frogs ..	1

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Cornish, F. Warre.	Jane Austin	3
Minto, W.	Daniel Defoe	2
Wyatt, A. J.	Anglo-Saxon Reader	8
Wyatt, A. J.	History of English Literature ..	4

ESSAYS AND BELLES LETTRES.

Harrison, F.	Among my Books	6

HISTORY.

Gordon, G. S.	The Fronde	1
Innes, A. D.	The Hohenzollerns	1

MISCELLANEOUS.

Howell, A. G. F.	Dante	1

MODERN LANGUAGES.

Molière.	Le Mariage Forcé	1
Musset, A.	de Croisilles	1
Racine, J.	Britannicus	1

POETRY AND DRAMA.

Congreve, W.	Way of the World	2
Masefield, J.	The Everlasting Mercy and the Widow in the Bye Street	1

POLITICAL SCIENCE.

Nevinson, H. W.	Growth of Freedom	1

THEOLOGY AND RELIGION.

Royden, M.	Life's Little Pitfalls	2

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

Mr. HENRY J. WAGG, O.B.E.



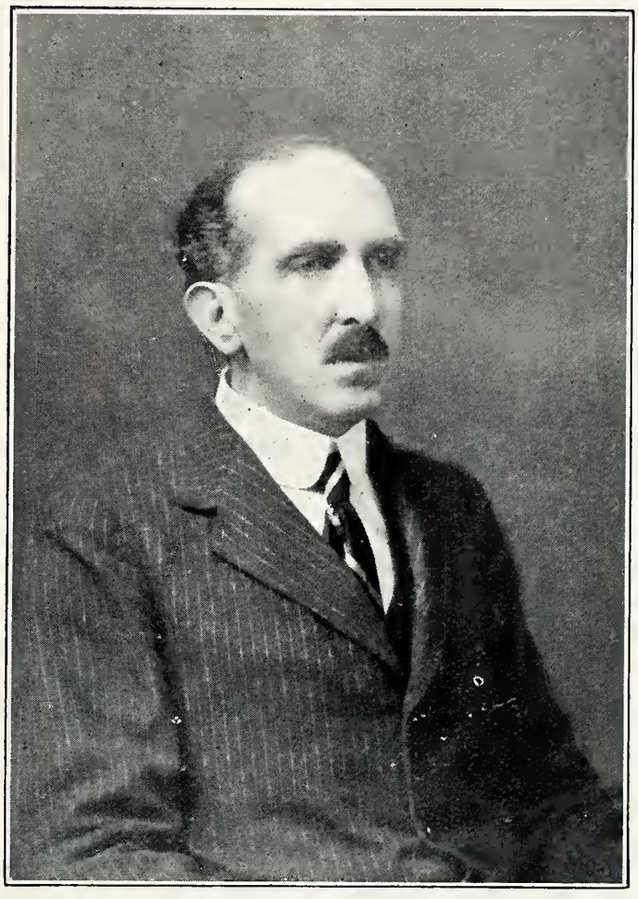
I HAVE been asked to write about my life, and that is my only excuse for doing so.

The great merit of Epstein's sculpture of Rima is that it has been placed where no one need see it.

Writing one's life is equally harmless: no one need read it.

* * *

I was born in Paddington in 1872, in a house not far from where I now live. My father, Arthur Wagg, and his father, John Wagg, were head of one of the oldest firms of stockbrokers in the City. I, perhaps stupidly, did not care for the idea of City life, but my younger brother, Alfred, the present head of the firm (now bankers) has carried on the old business in a far more able manner than I should ever have done. I hope later that one of my sons will prove worthy of taking his place as the fourth generation.



Mr. Henry J. Wagg, o.b.e.

My parents lived mostly in London and Brighton, always spending the winter at the latter place. They were connected with many charitable institutions there, and always encouraged us (I was one of six) to do similar work. For 28 years my father served in the Artists' Rifles Volunteers and was in the first list of V.D.'s granted to London Regiments. He carried off many prizes for marksmanship.

In 1880 I went to a preparatory school, and in 1886 to Eton. At Eton my chief interests were centred in the school workshop (where I spent as much time as the necessary lessons and games would permit), and in the school volunteers. I was too small to be given a rifle, but became a bugler, and was on duty with the corps at Queen Victoria's first jubilee, and when she laid the foundation stone of the new schools. An amusing incident occurred on one of my first field days. The Colonel was mounted, and I was on foot; after covering considerable ground he ordered me to sound the "cease fire." The enemy suffered severe casualties before I could get enough wind to obey the order.

I regret to say that languages, history and suchlike things were sadly neglected.

Another amusing experience at Eton was my entrance into the musical society. A small friend of mine asked me to join, but I said, "I do not know if I can sing." "Oh," he replied "that doesn't matter; it's great fun. What sort of voice have you got?" I said, "I don't know; what are you?" "An alto," he replied. "All right," I said, "*I'll* be an alto." And promptly joined as such. The effect apparently was all right "in bulk," as the following year we had to give a command performance at Windsor Castle. Eton 40 years ago was much the same as now, excepting that "hard-boiled" shirts were compulsory and great coats were almost unknown.

In 1889 Sir Edmund Hay Currie founded an Engineering College at Folkestone, in which I was one of his first pupils. I found the various technical subjects that were taught there of far greater interest than the other subjects, and the workshop was part of our education. Splendid provision was made for rowing and sea bathing, and I learnt to ride one of the early safety bicycles which had been

invented about three or four years previously. They were not the ideal of comfort, having solid tyres and much heavier frames than the modern machines. In later years I went in largely for bicycling, and one winter rode backwards and forwards from London to Brighton every week-end, no matter what the weather. I bought a bicycle with a 54-inch wheel for additional amusement.

In 1892 I went to Frankfurt-on-Main to study in an Electrical Laboratory. Here my chief recreation was rowing on the river, but there was much of interest to see both there and at Homburg close by.

The following year I went as a pupil to the Brush Engineering Co., and with overalls, hammer and chisel I soon became as dirty as the best of workmen. It was real hard work, but I enjoyed it, and I soon got to learn what a fine fellow the average British workman is if he is only given a fair chance. During my course I was sent with other pupils to assist in installing the machinery for lighting Arundel Castle.

I next went to Messrs. John Fowler & Co., of Leeds, where I joined the testing staff. I spent most of my time working with electricity at several thousand volts pressure ; for safety we worked on a high wooden platform, and usually with one hand in our pocket to avoid unforeseen electrocution. Whilst there I was told to get ready to go to Madrid in a few months' time to help supervise the erection of machinery for lighting that city. To prepare myself for the trip, I was advised to learn Spanish and revolver shooting. Luckily I was sent to a similar job at Reading where neither of these accomplishments was necessary. Accidents in the works at Leeds were of almost daily occurrence—traction engines, steam rollers, steam ploughs were usually running about the works or being handled in the course of manufacture.

About 1895 I started in business in London as a consulting engineer for designing private installations of electric light and power. The work was very interesting, but not as remunerative as if I had studied longer and entered a wider field of the profession. I carried on this work until the outbreak of the war in 1914.

The chief interest of the work lay in its variety, for it was necessary to go " behind the scenes " in many walks of life, to meet many types of clients and to work with architects of widely different ideas. The ten years I spent in and out of hospitals were full of interest, electricity being used for numberless purposes in addition to lighting. Every department had its own special needs to meet, for which much apparatus had to be designed. I experimented for some time with Röntgen Rays long before anyone knew of their great danger, but luckily I escaped injury. One thing I learnt " behind the scenes " there was where to get the best advice on doctors. The porter in the Post-Mortem Department at the London Hospital was taken ill ; the Secretary saw him and said he would send Dr. S. to attend him. The porter replied " If it's all the same to you, sir, I would rather have Dr. H. I knows who sends them to our department."

A large workhouse infirmary and two millionaires' houses, which I lighted about the same time, formed a sad but interesting contrast.

My last big installation was effected when, as Honorary Engineer to the National Institute for the Blind, I was responsible for the whole of the electrical work in the new building.

Before the work was completed, war broke out, and as I was well over military age I joined as an able seaman in the newly-formed Anti-Aircraft Corps. Luckily, I was stationed at the G.H.Q. warning control, first at the Admiralty, then at the Horse Guards. Being the only engineer in this section, I was given charge of the design and alteration of the electric signalling and other apparatus we used during the last few years of the war, in addition to my post of Duty Telephone Officer.

As for most others, promotion was rapid. In 1915 I was made C.P.O., in 1916 Sub-Lieutenant, in 1917 Lieutenant. The work was unique. We started in 1914 with one operator in the warning control. When the war ended there were about 80 men at the control, and work was so rapid that most orders had to be given by electric signal, messages during some raids running into four figures.

There were always certain men " on watch," but when the alarm sounded the other " watches " had to turn out at " the double," and the order was " duty before decency."

The chief difficulty was not to give alarms of hostile aircraft on false information. As an example, on one occasion we had reports of rapid fire from several parts of the West-end of London. After hurried investigation one of our gun stations telephoned " motor lorry back-fired all up Park Lane now broken down." We had many such diversions, but the other side of the picture was very different—

the many young officers who came back wounded from overseas, who worked with us during their recovery, only to go back to the Front, never to return. This made us feel what a humble part we were playing in the Great War.

I was demobilised in February, 1919, and decided to devote most of my time to work for the blind, though I continued my connection with the Paddington Borough Council, of which body I have been a member for about 17 years.

In 1921 the railway strike gave me a new experience, when I worked for a week as a "blackleg" electrician on the Metropolitan Railway, and learnt a lot about that wonderful organisation.

In 1926 in the great General Strike I joined the Bath Club Section of the Special Constabulary, and had a most interesting week touring the disturbed areas in motor cars. Unfortunately, the only time we were sent to protect a convoy from the docks, the convoy said "No, thanks," and we had to remain there all night till armoured cars arrived before the convoy would start. W. S. Gilbert would have enjoyed the situation enormously.

In 1897 I married Eleanor, daughter of the late Charles J. Lindsay Nicholson, and am the proud possessor of two sons, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Now to go back 23 years:—

My sister, Elsie Wagg, then Hon. Secretary of the Barclay Home and School for Blind and Partially Blind Girls, Brighton, asked me to join the Committee and help her with her work, and especially to use my engineering experience in connection with a proposed extension.

I became joint Hon. Secretary and later Hon. Secretary, and during the eighteen years I retained that post I helped in the design of four extensions, in raising the money to pay for them, and in starting a Workshop in the Home. My work, however, consisted mostly in planning and organising, and the credit for the great spirit behind the work must be given primarily to that wonderful woman, Gertrude Campion (the Hon. Mrs. Campion, J.P.), daughter of the late Speaker Brand, afterwards Viscount Hampden. She founded the Home in 1893, was chairman for 25 years, and, I am glad to say, is still alive to see the fruits of her great work. She was succeeded as Chairman by Godfrey Mowatt, J.P., who had been on the original Committee. Mr. Mowatt is so well known that no remarks of mine are necessary, excepting to say that his father, the Right Hon. Sir Francis Mowatt, I.S.O., and my father were two of the first Trustees of the Barclay Home. I am still a member of the Barclay Home Committee.

Miss Snowball, the Superintendent, and Miss Eide, the Weaving Teacher, have both given over twenty years' devoted service to the Home, and have carried on the fine spirit instilled by the Foundress.

In October, 1905, Mrs. Campion wrote to me that she considered the Barclay Home was useless unless we started a Workshop in London. In December of that year we got a few people together, at my father's house in London, to discuss the matter and to form a Committee.

In February, 1906, the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women was started in two upper rooms in Praed Street, Paddington, with two blind workers who had been trained at Brighton, Miss Hannah Wilkes and Miss Mary Wood, who are still in the Workshop. The capital was £250, not a very solid foundation on which to start an institution.

The Hon. Mildred Dodson, Mrs. Campion's niece, was for sixteen years its first Chairman, and is still on the Committee, never sparing herself in looking after the welfare of the workers.

The Workshop was shortly moved to larger premises—246 Edgware Road. In 1912 we took a seven years' lease of the whole upper part of 233 Edgware Road. I remember that in 1918 I was rung up one morning, when on duty, by Sir Arthur Pearson, to tell me that H.M. the Queen proposed visiting the Barclay Workshop that afternoon, and asking me to make all arrangements. In 1919 we realised that a ground-floor showroom was necessary, so we bought the lease of No. 21 Crawford Street and 2 Little Durweston Street at rear. The following year we added No. 1 Little Durweston Street, which we entirely rebuilt. Several members of the Committee opposed the extension on the ground that we could not find living accommodation for the blind workers. I assured them that something would turn up, and within a few months the Church Army, at our request, opened a splendid Hostel for Blind Women, "Turner House," just north of Regent's Park, which soon became full and has so remained. We owe the Church Army a great debt of gratitude.

In 1922 we took over the "Eyes to the Blind" Society, founded by that good woman, the late Miss Douglas Hamilton. Up till then we only employed weavers, but the amalgamation opened up a department for machine knitters.

In 1923 we purchased the lease of 19 Crawford Street, in which to house this Society. In 1925 our landlords informed us that if we ever wanted 19 Crawford Street, here was our last chance, as someone had made an offer for it. As usual, we were overdrawn at the bank and had no reserves. Thereupon, we approached the National Institute for the Blind, who offered to lend us £2,000 for three years. We bought the lease of this house, but thanks to our ever good friend, Godfrey Mowatt, we were able to rebuild, pay off our debts and put £2,000 in our Pension Fund without borrowing anything. He it was who brought Mr. Henry Longstaff and his cross-word puzzles to our rescue. As the Workshop has never had to pay the salary of a Secretary, I suggested some years ago that it should pay a premium to insure my life. By this means they will at my death receive £5,000, which will probably prove useful, as ever since its foundation the Workshop has always lived " from hand to mouth."

Over 30 years ago two girls met at school at a small town in France. One of these girls became Lady O'Dwyer and the other my wife. The friendship made there led to great happenings in the world of the blind. Lady O'Dwyer became second Chairman of the Barclay Workshop, and through her Sir Michael O'Dwyer joined the Council of the National Institute, and brought Mr. Kitchin, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Mulhall, Sir Alexander Diack and others. Mrs. West Russell is now Chairman, and, although she has not been there very long, has made improvements of great value. I hope she will remain the head for many years.

The Home and Workshops in London and Brighton are now caring for about 170 blind women and girls, and are the only institutions that make hand-loom weaving their chief industry. There are between 60 and 70 looms, besides numerous knitting machines, and more will be purchased when the new building is completed.

As an engineer I have been able to do most of the designing of extensions and organising, but someone had to be responsible for the many difficult problems of manufacture, sales, purchase of raw materials, designs, staff and domestic management and the endless small matters that crop up daily.

The Barclay Workshop would never have grown up and done what it has, but that soon after it started, Miss Clarry Ward (now Mrs. Hattersley Ward) was appointed Superintendent. With unlimited energy, initiative and skill she tackled every problem and gathered round her an excellent staff. She has indeed been a splendid friend to the blind and the cause for which she has worked.

In 1922 Godfrey Mowatt, with whom I had worked for many years, asked me to join the Council and Standing Committee of the National Institute for the Blind. He said there would be plenty of hard work to be done, and after nearly five years there I can testify to the truth of this remark. The work there seems endless, and is likely to be so as long as there are over 40,000 blind in England and Wales alone, most of whom look to the National Institute for something.

I serve on the Homes and Home Industries Committee, and find plenty of interesting work on both ; but my chief interests as an engineer have been in providing wireless for the blind in their own homes—the greatest boon the blind have ever had—and in the Technical and Research Committee, of which I am Chairman. With my usual luck I have managed to secure the services of a committee of scientists of wide experience, and a Secretary, Mr. Edward Pyke, whose work already looks as if it is going to prove of lasting value.

I am also on the following Committees : Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Associations for the Blind ; Greater London Fund for the Blind ; London County Council Advisory Committee ; Middlesex County Council Advisory Committee, and was on the Committee of the Federation of the Workshops for the Blind of London throughout its existence.

After 23 years of work amongst voluntary associations, I feel I cannot do better than once more quote the words of Mussolini : " All systems of association that take no account of personal initiative or individual impulse are doomed to failure."

* * *

" Destiny plays us queer tricks " were the last words of the mouse as he gnawed into the cable and plunged the whole town into darkness.

The mouse was not responsible for all the harm he did, and I am not responsible for much of the good I have done. I am just one of a team with Destiny the Captain.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND



FEW people think of a Library as a possible centre of social activity, and fewer still would connect a Library for the Blind with festivity ; yet every one who was present at the Reading Competition held at the National Library for the Blind on Saturday, April 2nd, would agree that a Braille Library may be a delightful setting for a lively and interesting gathering.

To the blind competitors it was certainly a festival, all the more eagerly looked forward to and keenly enjoyed because last year it had to be put off on account of the strike. This year it was, as always, a day of happy meetings, when school companions who can rarely meet now found themselves together again, and fellow workers who have become friends through correspondence met and spoke their friendliness face to face. Every one was in holiday mood, except indeed the judges, who must have found their work extremely difficult.

The morning was taken up by the preliminary readings (running off the heats, as it were). There were five divisions for these, in which the judges were Mrs. Branson, Professor Macdonald, Mr. E. Le Breton Martin, Mr. Dixson and Mr. de la Mare Rowley.

There was a special class this year for Esperanto readers, judged by Mrs. Clayton, Mr. Merrick and Mr. Butler, which was held early in the afternoon. Esperanto certainly sounded an attractive and expressive language as read, later in the afternoon, by the prize-winner, Miss E. Morison.

In the big Lecture Hall, lit up by quantities of delicate spring flowers and thronged with the Library's friends and visitors, Mr. Le Breton Martin welcomed the judges. The three judges who made the final choice in all the classes were Mr. Stobart, Professor Macdonald and Mr. John Freeman. Mr. Martin regretted that influenza prevented Mr. Walter de la Mare from being present as he had hoped to be, and the Boat Race prevented Mr. J. C. Squire; but he voiced the Library's gratitude to Mr. John Freeman and Mr. J. C. Stobart who had so kindly taken their places.

The passages chosen for reading in the various classes were as follows :—

CLASS A (Adults).

Prose.—" Close of the Middle Ages," by Froude.

Poem.—" Birds of Paradise," by Christina Rossetti.

ESPERANTO.—Poem from Dr. Zamenhoff's collection.

JUNIOR CLASS (between 12 and 16 years of age).

Prose.—" Water Babies," by Charles Kingsley.

Poem.—" Enchantment," by W. de la Mare.

JUNIOR CLASS (under 12).

Prose.—" Peter Pan," retold by Daniel O'Connor.

Poem.—" Someone," by W. de la Mare.

The standard of the reading was very high throughout, and there was specially keen competition in Class A, the winner in which also holds for a year the silver cup presented by Lord Blanesburgh, Chairman of the Library Committee. The readings were so level in their excellence that the judges had great difficulty in deciding upon the winner, and two competitors were asked to read a further passage. The first prize was finally awarded to Miss C. Till, with Miss E. A. Johns a close second, and Miss D. Ivens third.

Mr. Stobart, in announcing this result, said that the old-fashioned declamatory and rhetorical style of reading no longer met with approval, and that a straightforward, sympathetic utterance of the author's words without the interposition of the personality of the reader gave most pleasure to the listener.

In the " Senior-Junior " class (12-16) it was almost equally difficult to decide the better and best where all the reading was so good.

The prize went to :

1. Joan Hewlett, Royal Normal College.
2. Vera Styles, Elm Court L.C.C. School.
3. Robert Pettifer, East London School for the Blind.

The reading in the Junior Class (under 12) gave special pleasure to the audience, as surely it always does. They showed wonderfully little shyness, those small blind children, and they read clearly and with complete understanding and enjoyment about Peter and Wendy's visit to the Mermaid's Pool (though the greenish " tinge " in the mermaid's hair gave them all a moment's pause !), and about the " Someone " so subtly suggested in Mr. de la Mare's poem. The prize winners in this section were :

1. Phyllis Frost, Shillington Street L.C.C. School.
2. Dorothy Glogowsky, Powis Street L.C.C. School.

3. Dorothy Middleton, East London School for the Blind.

Consolation.

Nellie Fletcher, Barlby Road L.C.C. School.

Fred Lynn, Albany Road L.C.C. School.

Lord Frederick Hamilton presented the prizes, and had a cheery word for all the winners. For the Juniors he had also boxes of sweets and chocolates, sending them away with full hands and beaming faces.

Mr. Tindal Robertson moved a vote of thanks to the judges and others who had helped towards the day's success ; in reply to which Mr. Stobart said that no thanks were needed for doing an enjoyable work, and that listening to such reading as that afternoon had provided was a real pleasure, though he did not deny that concentration and consideration were necessary to weigh the merits of the readings.

Mr. Lawford seconded the vote of thanks.

Tea was provided in the gallery, now light and free from the bookshelves that had filled it for so long ; and after tea many of the guests inspected the new rooms, where the books produced with so much thought and labour are housed as they deserve to be housed, with air and space and convenience for circulation.



The Girls of the Secondary School, Douglas, Isle of Man, who, by their performances of Living Whist played on the Douglas Foreshore, have, during the past five years, raised the magnificent sum of **£316** 7s. 3d. for the "Sunshine" Homes for Blind Babies. Nearly **£100** of the amount was collected during their performances in July, **1926**.

WHILE inspecting the various exhibits after opening the National Museum of Wales at Cardiff, the King saw Mr. J. A. Charlton Deas, president of the Museum Association and director of the Public Museum Art Gallery and Library of Sunderland. Over 15 years ago Mr. Deas introduced the idea of "showing" museum specimens to the blind by actual touch of animal specimens of all kinds. Some interesting results were produced.

LIVING WHIST ON THE SANDS

AT the last display of Living Whist, given in aid of the "Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies," in July, 1926, by the girls of the Secondary School in Douglas, the collection amounted to nearly £100. Boys as well as girls collected this year, and the money literally poured in. Following are the totals for the five years :—1922, £35 ; 1923, £60 2s. ; 1924, £62 ; 1925, £60 ; 1926, £99 5s. 3d. Total, £316 7s. 3d.

Miss Green, one of the teachers at the school, visited the Sunshine Home at Southport, and gave her impressions as follows :—

What struck me most at the Southport Sunshine Home.

1. The tininess of the children ; for they leave at the age of five, and go to the blind school which is nearest their home.

2. The dining-room, with its low, square tables, each with four low, round-backed chairs.

3. The neat pigeon holes in the bathroom, one for each child's belongings.

4. The ingenious arrangement of glass partitions by means of which the night nurse can see every cot without going into the night nurseries.

5. The one ordinary bed among the high, railed cots—an endowed bed always occupied, as a special privilege, by the eldest "baby" before leaving.

6. The quick way in which the children recognised the nurse's step on the lawn.

7. The big garden, with lawn, flower-beds, play shelters, rocking horses, rocking boats and sand-pit.

8. The thought and care given ungrudgingly so that everything may be spotless and beautiful, even though few of the children can see at all. Finally, the suitability of the name—"Sunshine House."

A BLOOMSBURY SQUARE



PROBABLY in most minds there are secret and lovingly-guarded stores of desires to be ultimately fulfilled. The fruition may be distant; but, again and again, a bloom from the hidden cave foretells the promised bower, and gives us even enough scent and foliage to permit of a shadowy realisation.

One of my stores is labelled "London." It has scarce been opened, but a day will come—how I hope!—when it bears such fruit of pedestrian vigour, such flower of antiquarian book lore, that London shall be entirely mine—its nooks and corners alive with reminiscence, its streets thoroughfares of history, its atmosphere pregnant with suggestion.

Meanwhile, a new bloom has budded, and I have basked. "Queen Square: Its Neighbourhood and Its Institutions," by Godfrey Heathcote Hamilton (Leonard Parsons: 10/6 net)—such is its nomenclature, and it has given me the most pleasurable fragrance of reminiscence, history and suggestion. The mere name of the book gave me the first; an illustration: "Queen Square from the North, 1812," gave me the first taste of the second; and the frontispiece, "A Wet Day in Queen Square," gave me amply of the third. So, without further delay, I can most heartily recommend the book to all who love London or wish to love it.

Apart from this intrinsic value, all readers of *The Beacon* will be interested in the book because its author, Mr. Hamilton, must be well known to them by name, as he has been for many years intimately connected with work for the blind. He was, in fact, the first editor of *Progress*, the oldest Braille periodical, and is now a member of the Executive Council of the National Institute.

With avaricious builders, totally devoid of historical feeling, drifting threateningly towards the old squares and gardens of London, it is as well to have historical records available; such arm the righteous objector with a power stronger than the simple wish to breathe a little fresh air. So this book, although dealing with a square relatively safe, may at some opportune moment break a lance for other squares and gardens in an area rich in them—Bloomsbury.

Long ago a friend of mine said he would rather live in Bloomsbury than in the New Forest. Youthfully I disagreed, but I had not then read Pope's "Essay on Man"; and now Mr. Hamilton's book pays a deserved compliment to the sagacity of that contented Bloomsbury resident.

The first buildings in Queen's Square were erected in the reign of good Queen Anne. She gave the Square a name—and memories; but only one building, the Church of St. George the Martyr, has a few parts of its ancient chapel as alive now as then when the Royal lady so ponderously died. The eighteenth century found Queen Square at the height of its social hey-dey, and in a drawing made in 1787 it looks like a fashionable spa, washed in air and set amongst green pastures. Madame D'Arblay, in fact, notes the verdant prospect; and, as her papa, Dr. Charles Burney, dwelt there, perchance penned her diary in sight of Hampstead and Highgate Hills. Other eighteenth century personalities (whose ghosts still walk in Queen Square if you pace there, receptive, at autumn twilight) are Hannah More, Edward Hoyle (who knew such a tremendous lot about whist), Dr. John Campbell (who included the Grand Cham of Literature amongst his visitors), and Mr. Heidegger (whose Covent Garden concerts are still dimly famous and of whose ugliness I recollect many caricatures). And what memories attach to the "Ladies' Eton"—a girls' school where Mrs. Thrale studied the "rudiments of navigation," and Bozzy's daughter, Veronica, earned her distinction of "Our Queen Square daughter." Monsieur Borden was the dancing-master there—a great swell, who had taught members of the Royal Family, amongst others Princess Charlotte.

The amenities of Queen Square were recognised as early as the reign of William IV, when an Act of Parliament authorised the appointment of householders as trustees. They did their job with a vengeance, prohibiting children's chaises and games with "ball, hoop, bow and arrow, cross bow, dart," and (actually) smoking, though that stern Ruskinism was rescinded on the happy 17th January, 1885. And on the 14th April, 1891, poor Mrs. —— apparently received a reminder of the rules owing to a gardener's disapproval of the unruly conduct of her children! Again, in

1892, the trustees shy at the idea of a billiard room " detrimental to the inhabitants of the Square," ahem! It is easy to see how preciously they executed their trust. God bless them for it!

Of course, Dickens mentions the Square, but Mr. Hamilton does not say where, and I shamefacedly confess my ignorance. Likewise, Stevenson, in " The Dynamiter," characterising the Square as " sacred to humane and liberal arts." It certainly was and is—William Morris working on " pomegranate wallpaper," and " The Earthly Paradise " at No. 26 supports the latter statement—while the subsequent and present occupant of this house (the National Hospital) provides the most memorable instance of the truth of Stevenson's further statement that " Queen Square, Bloomsbury. . . .seems to have been set apart for the humanities of life and the alleviation of all hard destinies."

Although only one of the many Queen Square philanthropic institutions, the National Hospital will be of special interest to readers of the *Beacon*, because it is of this Hospital that Mr. Hamilton is Secretary. They should obtain this book, therefore, and read the fascinating account given by Mr. Hamilton of " how a little bead ornament grew into property worth a quarter of a million of money." Truly, a true fairy tale; and it has not ended yet.

J. DE LA M. R.

THE Mission to the Blind in Heathen Lands, founded by the late Mr. R. A. Byers, of Australia, continues to do useful work in various parts of the world. Mr. T. C. Reynolds, the newly-elected President, has recently visited Japan, and made himself familiar with the work being carried on there among the blind, by those who are themselves sightless. Mr. Akimoto and his helpers are busy printing quantities of Scripture portions in Braille, for free distribution among the blind in Tokyo and Yokohama. These gentlemen have been labouring in this way for their fellow-sufferers since 1914, and, besides the distribution of Scriptures, are responsible for a religious journal, also printed in Braille.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

KENSINGTON and Paddington " Helpers of the Blind " combined for the second year to organise a matinée at the Century Theatre, kindly lent by Miss Lena Ashwell. Among those who gave their services were Miss Mona Grey, Miss Peggy Cochrane, Miss Gabrielle Rozelle, Mr. Kenneth Ellis, and the pupils of the Ginner-Mawer School of Dancing. also Miss Gwynne Kimpton and members of her orchestra, which was led by Miss Phyllis Norman Parker. Mr. Sinclair Logan and Mr. Thomas Marshall also contributed to the programme. In the interval there was a short meeting, presided over by the Mayoress of Kensington. An eloquent appeal was made by Miss Lilian Braithwaite, and Mr. G. F. Mowatt expressed the gratitude of the Standing Committee to all those who had given so much time and trouble to organising the matinée.

On the same afternoon, March 16th, Mr. Preece was the speaker at the Ealing Women's Conservative Club, Mrs. Hall-Jones, the capable " Geranium Day " organiser for that district, having arranged this opportunity to bring again the work of the fund before her political friends, many of whom have given her their strong support in the past.

Among other events organised by " Helpers of the Blind " was an enjoyable dance at the house of Mrs. Hardie, Secretary of the Golders Green Circle; a concert by the G.L.F. Blind Party at Northwood; and a concert at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, organised by Miss Rosalind Reynolds, at which Miss Margaret Jewell, Mr. Ben Davies, and Mr. Frederick Ranalow appeared, Mr. O'Connor Morris acting as accompanist.

A new Circle was formed in the Borough of Lewisham, the Mayoress presiding. The meeting was followed by an excellent entertainment, blind artistes collaborating with local professionals.

The Concert Party also visited during the month Southall, North Finchley, Harringay and West Green Constitutional Club, Clapham, West Kilburn, Shepherds Bush, Woolwich, Ponders End and Surbiton, and provided a joint programme with members of the " Y " Choir at Tottenham.

The annual dance at the Municipal Hall, Tottenham, was held on March 23rd, and

drew a large attendance, despite unfavourable weather conditions. The local committee are greatly to be congratulated on the interest which the event has aroused in the neighbourhood. Another successful dance was held on the following night at the Princes Hall, Kennington Road.

On March 29th a delightful Dickens' recital was given at Wimbledon by the Rev. N. Kynaston Gaskell. Invitations for the event were sent out by Lady Roney, who hopes to arrange a successful "Geranium Day" in Wimbledon this year.

On the afternoon of the 25th the ladies of the Barclay Workshops' Committee were at home to workers for the Greater London Fund. Parties were conducted through the Workshop, and Mr. Preece spoke briefly to each group, giving an outline of the progress of the fund. Tea was most generously provided by the Committee.

A number of these ladies helped at the "Geranium Day" propaganda stall at the Hyde Park Hotel on March 30th and 31st.

On the evening of the 31st Capt. Sir Beachcroft and Lady Towse received "Geranium Day" organisers and "Helpers of the Blind" at the Spring Gardens Galleries. Speakers were Sir Ellis Cunliffe and Lady Fulton; a delightful musical programme was provided by Miss Nellie Norway, Miss Mollie Seymour, Mr. Kenneth Ellis, Mr. Sinclair Logan and Mr. Thomas Marshall. This was followed by dancing, The orchestra was provided by Mr. Leonard Smith.



PREPARING FOR GERANIUM DAY. LADY O'DWYER, D.B.E., AND SOME FRIENDS MAKING GERANIUMS.

Washington has also a blind barrister, Mr. Raymond Henderson, who recently amazed the judges in the United States Supreme Court in that city by his skill in reading copious notes in Braille.

MISS MOWATT'S WEDDING

THE wedding took place on April 20th, at Keymer, Sussex, of Miss Mary Elizabeth Mowatt, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Mowatt, of Swallowfields, Keymer, and Mr. Arthur George Wallis Penney, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Penney, of the Grange, Hurstpierpoint. Mr. Godfrey Mowatt is Honorary Treasurer of the National Institute for the Blind, and his daughter is also much interested in many philanthropic movements, and is a member of the Girl Guides. The wedding was a very pretty one, and a large number of guests attended the ceremony and were afterwards entertained by the bride's parents at Swallowfields, where many useful and beautiful wedding presents were on view.

CHILD WELFARE WORK IN GLASGOW

DR. A. S. M. MACGREGOR, Medical Officer of Health, speaking at the annual meeting of the Glasgow Infant Health Visitors' Association in the City Chambers recently said the infant mortality for the year (103 deaths per 1,000 births), while very much lower than the rates of 140 or 150 which prevailed at the end of last century, might be regarded as neither good nor bad. Child life was adversely affected by a measles epidemic of considerable magnitude during the first portion of the year, and by an influenza outbreak in the spring.

The value of child-welfare measures was not wholly to be gauged by vital statistics. Remedial and preventive work were essential parts of this service. For instance, the recent report of the Advisory Committee under the Blind Persons Act pointed out the marked decline in the numbers of blind who owed their disability to ophthalmia contracted at birth.

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)



IT is a matter of very much satisfaction to me to find so many readers keenly interested in this series of articles—taking the trouble not only to express appreciation of the work, but to furnish me with their valuable opinions. All such are very welcome, even though they are sometimes caustically critical.

I have been requested to make some observations on the vexed problem of direct public control of Institutions and Workshops for the Blind ; and I gladly respond to the invitation, because sooner or later the matter will become one of urgent practical politics, and it is as well that we should face the important issues without equivocation or reserve.

In these difficult days, when it is essential for every commercial project to be ruthlessly scrutinised with a view to reducing production costs to a minimum, it is reasonable to suggest that workshops for the employment of the blind cannot wholly expect to be altogether immune from such an examination. For a long time experts have been much concerned about the high costs that appear to be incidental to this form of employment. Oftentimes these costs appear to bear no reasonable ratio to the wages paid, whilst at the same time trade losses in recent years have soared to alarming proportions. It would be well for all concerned if without Government intervention we were to make a serious effort to set these things right, or at least to know that they are incapable of being remedied ; for, if the latter view were to be upheld, most certainly we would have to look in other directions for means by which the available labour of the blind worker could be absorbed more economically.

If we maintain an attitude of stolid indifference towards these urgently-pressing problems, complete public control will come to us in its least desirable form, and much of the good work accomplished by the voluntary organisations will be permanently retarded. As we are rapidly approaching the time when County and County Borough authorities will assume a larger measure of control and direction in welfare work on behalf of the blind, such a scrutiny becomes both desirable and necessary ; for, if our undertakings are to continue along progressive lines, it will be essential to demonstrate more and more that with certain properly-defined reservations our industrial establishments can meet the exigencies of reasonable competition.

In other words, establishment charges, economic earnings, and all other production costs will be required to bear proper comparison with other business enterprises, and we shall be obliged to show that they do not compete unfavourably with those who pay rates and taxes and whose daily bread is derived in innumerable instances from the same occupations as those practised by the blind.

If the voluntary organisations wish to maintain a reasonable measure of local autonomy and to enjoy the liberty they have so far exercised, it must be demonstrated that the best possible use is being made of the resources at their disposal ; and, if this can be proven, neither the central Government nor the local authorities will be anxious to assume greater responsibilities.

Generally speaking, the managers of our special workshops are not unmindful of these considerations, and I have good reason to know that some of them are very apprehensive of the results that may accrue if a very strenuous effort is not made in the near future to order our affairs in a better way.

Mill in his essay on Liberty reminds us that " the fatal tendency of mankind to leave off thinking about a thing, when it is no longer doubtful, is the cause of half their errors." Blind workers, who in the final analysis are most intimately concerned, or should be, appear to have given no very serious attention to the matter, and are quite oblivious of the fact that Government control in any form means a greater limitation of their individual freedom. They seem to think that if and when municipal control is secured, a substantial basic wage will necessarily be obtained, and that irrespective of their ability to earn such; forgetful of the fact that the ordinary ratepayer

must needs be consulted before such imposts can be entertained.

Those who labour under such a delusion will receive a rude awakening, and their sojourn in a fool's paradise will be short-lived. It seems to have been forgotten that those who are to-day in the service of County or County Borough authorities are able to bring to the execution of their respective tasks 100 per cent. of capacity ; and, be it remembered, it is this consideration which alone determines the basic or minimum rate of wage payments. To expect that similar conditions will be granted to non-seeing workers irrespective of efficiency or output is unthinkable, and certainly will never be conceded by business men.

We are continually urging our friends to believe that we do not wish to be the recipients of charity ; and, if we are taken at our own valuation, who can be surprised ? Surely, we are not so stupid as to contend that we really do not mean all we say, and that there is no justification whatever for the imposition of an efficiency and productive standard ? It is my considered opinion, after much anxious thought, and with a full sense of responsibility for the view enunciated, that our right to substantial remuneration must almost entirely rest on the ability we display in the craft, business or profession in which for the time being we may be engaged. It would automatically follow, with a full measure of public control, that we would be required to subscribe to such a test. Those who for any reason fell short of the standard would probably be treated in special relief categories or encouraged to find employment in other spheres of work, the important point at issue being that they would not be given liberal remuneration without proper regard being paid to their economic capacity.

It is all too frequently forgotten that present conditions have been secured as a result of the spontaneous goodwill of the community ; compulsion to give has been entirely lacking. But when other conditions are brought to bear and it is understood that this freedom of choice has disappeared, it is obvious that the public will be much more critical and far more vigilant in respect of the expenditure which they are required to provide.

(*To be continued.*)

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

LONDON ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.—In their report for the year 1925-26 this Association records rapid and steady progress. During the year a large residence was acquired at Bickley, to which the whole of the Women's Department has been removed. It is also recorded that six blind applicants have been admitted to the training schools, and two proficient pupils transferred to the workshops.

The following grants have been received : £1,973 from the Ministry of Health, and £577 from the Board of Education ; also legacies to the value of £558 and subscriptions and donations to the amount of £10,843. In addition a sum of £13,979 was allocated from the Greater London Fund for the Blind.

* * *

THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE BLIND, Tottenham Court Road.—In their 73rd Annual report the Committee of this Association state that the period under review presents satisfactory results both as regards finance and constructive assistance to the blind. Sales to the value of £32,176 were effected ; subscriptions and donations totalled £14,107 ; Government grant and sundries amounted to £2,150, and an allocation of £3,062 from the Greater London Fund for the Blind is reported.

The Council report that the brush trade of the Association has shown no improvement, and that it is very difficult to find a market for the goods in London at the present day. On the other hand, the articles made in the Pan Shop find a fairly ready market.

It is satisfactory to report that there has been a very even run of trade in the Basket Department during the year.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to April 11th, 571 wireless sets and 784 headphones have been distributed among the blind.

As a result of the appeal, 346 wireless sets and 171 headphones have been received ; of these one set and two pairs of headphones have been given during the past month.

Donations from private sources, and grants from the National Institute for the Blind, have enabled the fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and the number distributed.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—BRAILLE BOOKS *(Continued from page 2 of Cover)*

FICTION—

7495-7500	"The Abbot," by Sir Walter Scott, 6 vols.	per vol.	8 9
6834-6835	"The First Men in the Moon," by H. G. Wells, 2 vols.	per vol.	9 9
7231-7237	"Frank Fairleigh," by Frank E. Smedley, 7 vols.	per vol.	6 6
7157-7159	"The Gate of the Desert," by John Oxenham, 3 vols.	per vol.	8 9
7354-7360	"Harold," by Lord Lytton, 7 vols.	per vol.	6 6
7021-7022	"Prester John," by John Buchan, 2 vols.	per vol.	9 6

POETRY—

7447	"Atalanta's Race," from "The Earthly Paradise," by William Morris, pamphlet		1 6

RELIGIOUS—

6412	Proper Psalms, pamphlet		0 9

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

2572-2576	"In Kedar's Tents," by H. S. Merriman, 5 vols. (limited edition)	per vol.	12 0
2374	Quarterly Intercession Paper (No. 104, 2nd Quarter, 1927)		5 6

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1.
LIST OF ADDITIONS
April, 1927.

FICTION.

Borden, Mary. Romantic Women .. .. 5 vols.
Bosher, K. L. Mary Cary .. .. .. 2 vols.
Cannan, C. Annette and Bennett .. .. 4 vols.
Chambers, R. W. Marie Halkett .. .. 4 vols.
Christie, Agatha. Secret of Chimneys .. 4 vols.
Clouston, J. Storer. Lunatic in Charge .. 3 vols.
Cooper, E. H. Fool's Year .. .. .. 4 vols.
Cullum, Ridgwell. Night Riders .. .. 6 vols.
Darlington, W. A. Alf's Button .. .. 4 vols.
Deeping, Warwick. Sorrell and Son .. .. 6 vols.
Delafield, E. M. Chip and the Block .. 5 vols.
Diver, Maud. Siege Perilous .. .. .. 4 vols.
Farnol, J. Martin Conisby's Vengeance .. 5 vols.
Farrère, C. Thomas the Lambkin .. .. 6 vols.
Ferber, Edna. So Big .. .. 5 vols.
Fortescue, Hon. J. W. Three Pearls .. .. 3 vols.
Hardy, T. The Well-beloved .. .. .. 3 vols.
Haggard, Sir H. Rider. Brethren .. .. 6 vols.
Haggard, Sir H. Rider. Allan's Wife .. 3 vols.
Howard, K. Adorable Lad .. .. .. 4 vols.
Jenkins, H. John Dene of Toronto .. .. 4 vols.
Kent, Nora. Barren Lands .. .. .. 5 vols.
Kipling, Rudyard. Debits and Credits .. 5 vols.
Larminie, M. R. Soames Green .. .. 4 vols.
LeFeuvre, A. Miss Lavender's Boy .. .. 3 vols.
Letts, W. M. Corporal's Corner .. .. 3 vols.
Morley, C. Thunder on the Left .. .. 3 vols.
Mulford, C. E. The Orphan .. .. .. 4 vols.
Pedler, M. Waves of Destiny .. .. .. 5 vols.
Phillpotts, Eden. Old Delabole .. .. 5 vols.
Richardson, D. M. The Trap .. .. .. 2 vols.
Rohmer, S. Green Eyes of Bast .. .. 4 vols.
Ruck, Bertha. His Official Fiancée .. .. 4 vols.
"Sapper." Final Count .. .. .. 4 vols.
Seth-Smith, E. K. Sir Ranulf .. .. .. 2 vols.
Somerville, E. O. E., and Ross, M. Big House of Inver .. .. 5 vols.
Spero, L. The Dreamer .. .. .. 3 vols.
Stern, G. B. Tents of Israel .. .. .. 5 vols.
Surtees, R. Handley Dross (in continuation) 1-4 vols.
Sutherland, Joan. The Challenge .. .. 8 vols.
Thompson, Sylvia. Hounds of Spring .. 5 vols.
Wallace, E. Man from Morocco .. .. 6 vols.
Ward, Mrs. H. Helbeck of Bannisdale .. 7 vols.
Wells, H. G. Invisible Man .. .. .. 3 vols.
Weyman, S. J. Queen's Folly .. .. 6 vols.
Williams, Valentine. Red Mass .. .. 4 vols.
Wister, O. Red Men and White .. .. 4 vols.
Wren, P. C. Beau Geste .. .. .. 7 vols.
Yonge, C. M. The Trial .. .. .. 9 vols.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Besant, A. Evolution and Man's Destiny .. 4 vols.
Cook, T. A. (Ed.) Anthology of Humorous Verse (in continuation) .. .. 1-3 vols.
Davids, T. W. Rhys. Buddhism, Sketch of Life and Teachings of Gautama the Buddha 5 vols.
Dixon, W. H. Robert Blake (British Admiral, 1599-1657) .. .. 5 vols.
Fry, Joan Mary. Communion of Life .. 1 vol.
Gibson, C. R. Electricity of To-day: its Work and Mysteries described in non-technical language .. .. 5 vols.
Gibson, C. R. What is Electricity? (a book for the general reader) .. .. .. 2 vols.
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Hosie, Lady. Two Gentlemen of China .. 5 vols.
Hutton, E. Franciscans in England (1224-1538) ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund") .. 5 vols.
Kingsford, A., and Maitland, E. Perfect Way, or the Finding of Christ .. .. .. 6 vols.
Lewes, Georgina King. George Fox .. .. 1 vol.
Macdonald, A. J. Lanfranc: a Study of his Life, Work and Writings ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund") .. .. 7 vols.
Maurois, A. Captains and Kings .. .. 2 vols.
Maynard, C. L. The Kingdom of Heaven is like —— .. .. 2 vols.
Morton, H. V. Spell of London .. .. 3 vols.
Oliphant, Mrs. Cervantes .. .. .. 4 vols.
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Pollard, A. F. (Ed.). British Empire: its past, its present and its future (in continuation) .. 1-6 vols.
Quiller-Couch, Sir A. T. (Ed.). Oxford Book of English Prose (in continuation) ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund") .. .. .. 1-8 vols.
Vonier, Dom Oscar. Human Soul and its relations with other spirits .. .. .. 4 vols.
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Whittier, J. G. Treasury (Selections) .. 1 vol.
Whyte, A. G. Stanley Baldwin: a biographical character study .. .. 2 vols.

Metaphysical Lyrics and Poems of the 17th Century, Donne to Butler (in continuation) ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund") .. .. 1 vol.

GRADE 1.

Cadbury, M. C. Story of Robert Barclay .. 1 vol.
Chester, M. Knights of the Grail .. .. 2 vols.
Lefèvre, F. The Cock and the Mouse and the Little Red Hen .. .. 1 vol.

BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Progress.—On Crusoe's Island—Pearls—What and Why of the Eclipse—A Hope and a Star (Poem)—A Forest Experience—Japanese Women of To-day—History in Hidden Treasure—Our Prize Competition—Correspondence—Matters of the Moment—Advertisements—Polite Pronunciation—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page: "Les Huîtres"—Fiction: The Clarionet Player. Supplements: "Progress" Chess; Home Occupations for the Blind: Jumper with Scarf Polo Collar; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—Sir Isaac Newton—Children of the Mind—Beethoven—Dogs in Literature—A Fleet of Geese (Poem)—A Chinese Gentleman—The Story of a Little Poem—Wireless Programmes in Braille—Book Reviews. Supplement: Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—The Happy Lands of Scandinavia—The Story of the Post Office. 4: Ocean and Other Mails—The Why and the Wherefore—Prize Competitions—Told in Playtime. Supplements: "Comrades"; Announcements; Map of the Basin of the Ouse. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Report to Board of Education—Piano Music of the "Etude" Type—Ludwig van Beethoven—Notices—The Beginnings of Harmony—Trinity College Examinations—The "Little Organ-Book" of Bach. Supplements: "Braille Music Reviews; Announcements; Insets: Organ: Choral Prelude, "When we are in our greatest need," by Bach. Song: "Matilda," by Liza Lehmann. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—The Founder's Lecture: The Function of Physico-Therapy in General Medicine—Official Notices—Section of Neurology and Psychology (concluded). Supplements: "Massage Journal" Inset: State Registration (concluded)—State Registration (New Series); Official Notices; Wireless Programmes in Braille. Announcements. (6d. per copy, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Channels of Blessing.—True Greatness—The Master's Touch—Notes on Proverbs—Amen—Our Letter from India—Follow Thou Me—Prayer Answers Delayed—A Talk on Tsangchow and Siaochang—To-day and To-morrow—God's Secrets—Gleanings—Braille Missionary Union. Inset: "Channels of Blessing" Supplement: The Test of Abraham's Faith; Tools for Teachers.

Santa Lucia.—Winged Heroes of the War (The Daily Express)—Japan's Farewell to its Emperor (Children's Newspaper)—Review of a New Book—Surprise for a Mother Fast Asleep (Children's Newspaper)—Record Diamond Rush (The Morning Post)—Gabriel Samara, Book I, Chapters XII, XIV (E. Phillips Oppenheim—An English woman's Life in Shanghai—George Graves' Errand of Mercy (The Daily Express)—Thought for the Month—Advertisement—The Welcome of the Maoris to the Duke and Duchess (Children's Newspaper)—Surprise in the Fisherman's Net (Children's Newspaper)—English to the Rescue (Children's Newspaper)—Mother's Day (Children's Newspaper)—An Alarm Block of 400 B.C. (Children's Newspaper) (1s. 8d. per month, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—The Manufacture of Gas—News Items—The Poet's Corner—The Year 1920, and After—Favourite Quotations—International Notes—Stageland—Correspondence—Advertisements and General Notices—Great Philistinism—Oxford *v.* Cambridge. Supplements: Literary: "The Golden Treasurer"; "English with an Accent." Notices. Music: "There is a Green Hill far away," by Gounod. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

The Moon Magazine.—The Countess's Carriage—The Adventurer—Red Indians of To-day—Stories of the Great Seal—World's Storm Factory—Method in his Madness. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

Headmaster wanted, October 1st, as Superintendent and Secretary, Certificated, "C.T.B." Diploma, 80 blind children, Burnham Scale 3, Grade 2. **Wife as Matron.** Salary according to experience. Board, residence, laundry provided. Apply, giving full particulars, family, and three recent testimonials:—CHAIRMAN, Royal Blind School, Broomhill, Sheffield.

Senior Lady Home Teacher, fully qualified (sighted), required by the Northamptonshire (Town and County) Association for the Blind, with a view to taking control of Home Teaching and Welfare Work. Considerable experience of Welfare Work essential. Apply, stating age, training and experience, with salary required, and enclosing copies of testimonials, to HORACE E. LACEY, General Secretary, 15 Guildhall Road, Northampton.

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Wanted, a qualified **Sighted Head Mistress.** Must be certificated, hold special qualifications in accordance with Board of Education regulations, and be able to teach the Braille system.

Applicants must have had some years' experience in teaching in a School for Blind Children.

Salary in accordance with "Burnham" Awarded Scale III. Average attendance, 33.

Forms of application may be obtained from the Director of Education, Education Offices, South Parade, Nottingham, on receipt of a stamped and directed wrapper, and should be returned not later than Wednesday, 18th May.

GERANIUM DAY

Friday, May 13th, and Saturday, May 14th, are fixed for "Geranium Days" this year. Helpers are urgently needed for this great combined Appeal made by the Greater London Fund for the Blind (conducted by the National Institute for the Blind) on behalf of the participating societies and institutions, namely: Barclay Workshop for Blind Women (with which is incorporated Eyes to the Blind Society); Blind Employment Factory, Waterloo Road (Department of the Royal School for the Indigent Blind); Incorporated Association for the Welfare of the Blind; London Association for the Blind; London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind (with which is incorporated West London Workshops for the Blind); Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Associations for the Blind; National Institute for the Blind; The Workshops for the Blind of Kent, etc. (All registered under the Blind Persons Act, 1920.)

Will those who can help sell Geraniums or assist in any other way, write to the Chief Social Organiser, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1. (Telephone: Museum 9704.

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1927

JUNE

Vol. XI No. 126

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire. The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	CHURCH—		
7790	"Praise thou the Lord," Soprano Solo and Chorus (No. 2a of "Hymn of Praise"), by Mendelssohn (Vertical score)	2	0
7791	"Ye Nations, Offer to the Lord," Chorus (No. 10 of "Hymn of Praise"), by Mendelssohn (Vertical Score)	3	0
7792	"Pro Peccatis," Bass Solo from "Stabat Mater," by Rossini (A: Compass A, to E′)	2	0
	ORGAN—		
7793	Prelude and Fugue in G, Vol. 4, No. 2, by Bach (Bar by bar)	2	0
7794	Andante with Variations, from the "Septuor," by Beethoven (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7795	"Allegro Marziale," by Harold Greenhill (Bar by bar)	2	0
7796	Minuetto and Allegro in B flat, by Handel (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO—		
7797	"Malaguena" (Spanish Dance), by I. Albeniz (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7798	Gavotte in G, from No. 5 of VI Petites Suites, by Bach (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7799	"Over the Hills" (Six Pieces), by J. Ching (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7800	Ballad No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52, by Chopin (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7801	Two Lyrical Pieces, by H. M. Cooper (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7802	Six Dance Tunes, by F. P. Driver (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7803	Petite Valse, Op. 26, by A. Liadow (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7804	"Lyrics," Book 2, by Moore Park (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7805	"Capstan and Windlass" (A Nautical Medley), arranged by Ernest Reeves (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7806	"Carnival Memories" (Suite of 9 Pieces), by Olive Turner (Bar by bar), pocket size	3	0
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7807	"Don't you understand?" Song-Waltz, by D. Forster (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7808	"When do we dance?" from "Tip Toes," by G. Gershwin, Song Fox-Trot (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7809	"Sheila O'Shay," Song-Waltz, by Hargreaves, Damerell and Griffiths (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7810	"When it's June down there," Song Fox-Trot, by H. M. Tennent (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
7811	"Eily Mavourneen," from "The Lily of Killarney," by Benedict (D: Compass D to F′), pocket size	2	0
7812	"Pepita," by Eric Coates (E: Compass C sharp to E′), pocket size	2	0
7813	"The Palms" ("Les Rameaux"), by Faure (B flat: Compass D to F′), pocket size	2	0
7814	"Song of the Calf of Gold," Bass Solo from "Faust," by Gounod (C minor: Compass C to E′)	2	0
7815	"My Father has some very fine Sheep," arranged by H. Hughes (G: Compass D to D′), pocket size	2	0
7816	"Good morning, Brother Sunshine!" by Liza Lehmann (C: Compass C to F′), pocket size	2	0
7817	"Absence," by Easthope Martin (A minor: Compass B, to F′), pocket size	2	0
7818	"Ave Maria," by Schubert (A flat: Compass E to E′)	2	0
7819	"The Wanderer," by Schubert (E: Compass G, to E′)	2	0
7820	"The Willow Song," by Sullivan (E: Compass B, to E′), pocket size	2	0
7821	"Do you know my Garden?" by Haydn Wood (C: Compass C to E′), pocket size	2	0
	DUET—		
7822	"The bonnie Earl o' Moray" (Soprano and Contralto), arranged by Moffat	2	0
	THEORY—		
7823	Elementary Lessons and Exercises in the Revised (1922) Braille Music-Notation (Braille Type Edition), by Edward Watson. (Special net price—Inland and abroad)	2	6
	MUSIC LITERATURE—		
7521	"The Orchestra" and "The Military Band," by H. J. Taylor, pocket size	1	9

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The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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THE WORK OF THE HOME INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND



THE Home Industries Committee of the National Institute for the Blind is concerned with the welfare of blind home-workers resident in the Metropolitan district south of the Thames and in the Counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire.

Its members are Mr. G. F. Mowatt (Chairman), Miss J. Merivale, Mr. T. D. Hobby, Mr. A. J. W. Kitchin, Mr. J. Mulhall, Mr. Harvey F. Plant, Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse and Mr. H. J. Wagg.

Although, strictly speaking, the Institute's Home Workers' Scheme is not a national undertaking (the area of its operation being limited), it is, nevertheless, the largest scheme of its kind in the country, and has met with really remarkable success since its initiation (at the suggestion of the Ministry of Health) about five years ago.

Perhaps the main reason for this immediate success was the urgent necessity for such a scheme before it was begun. Here was a mass of blind labour, able and willing to do its best to attain independence by useful and marketable work, yet unable, by force of circumstances, to get beyond this will and ability to work. Imagine yourself for a moment to be a blind man in some little country village nestled in a remote part of the Downs. There is perhaps a workshop for the blind some half-a-dozen miles away, but it is full; and even should a vacancy occur, how on earth can you, day after day, tramp those six dreary miles all by yourself? You have perhaps tried to move into the town, within reasonable distance of the workshop, but you have not yet been able to find a suitable lodging, and you know for certain that the old villager who has become so used to your ways and looks after you so well would think the world about to end if she were asked to leave her country cottage. By constant practice and real hard work you know that you can turn out a pretty good basket, but you are rather dubious as to whether it is in the latest taste; and, what with the difficulty of obtaining the raw material cheaply and paying a middleman commission to sell your baskets, you begin to wonder whether the pile of mediocre products you are gradually accumulating will ever be sold in a world that wants everything up-to-date and cheap. What about mats, then? Your fingers feel they could do something in that way, and you have some new notions—but no, the difficulties are too great, and your busy fingers become listless or wander aimlessly over a Braille page extolling patience under adverse circumstances.

Now this was the position of many a blind man or woman in rural districts before the initiation of the various Home Workers' Schemes. So that when the Institute's Scheme was introduced, it found awaiting it an eager

expectancy—for the blind are ever hopeful—and it was met half way in its desire to aid by the desire to benefit by its aid.

Thus, the blind man who wished to work, though perforce tied to his home, became the blind home worker. Here at his elbow was the key to all his difficulties. Here was an organisation that would banish that ever-renewed but vain attempt to get a place in a distant factory; that would provide for him all the raw material he needed at cost price; that would give him any instruction in workmanship which he needed; that would keep him *au fait* with the latest designs; that would watch the markets for him; that would eliminate the expense of a middleman; that would pay him promptly on sale of goods and help him in innumerable ways.

In brief, the blind home worker had found something which would help him to help himself, and that is the assistance which the normal blind person appreciates more than oceans of pity and seas of sickly sympathy.

There are at present one hundred and eighty-four blind men and women who come within the scope of the Institute's Home Workers' Scheme. From Margate to Christchurch, from London to Brighton—no matter where in that wide rural area a blind home worker resides, he or she is now linked to progress, a necessary part in a business-like proposition.

Let us turn for a moment from the difficulties of the blind home worker to the difficulties confronting the Institute when they accepted responsibility for the scheme. It had to get into touch with the workers in districts far apart; it had to establish a trading centre, provide storage accommodation and get into touch with suppliers of raw material; it had to survey the quality of the work being turned out by home workers, and, in view of the long neglect of them, it is not astonishing to find that that work was very often of a poor quality—practically useless as a marketable commodity. It was found that many workers had been taught trades unsuited to their special ability or unsuited to their locality; practically all were out of touch with possible purchasers; nowhere did there exist any kind of sales organisation.

So the Committee digested all available data and set to work to find remedies. First and foremost, goods manufactured for sale must be saleable goods—goods that could compete with those offered for sale in local shops—goods that were solidly made and attractively designed. So travelling instructors were appointed, people who could improve the standard of basketry and knitting and discipline production.

Then adequate storage accommodation was acquired, not in London—a bad centre for the district embraced by the scheme—but at Redhill, Surrey, where the rural districts lie open to rapid transit. Now raw materials could be bought in bulk, and, as a consequence, down went the price to the blind.

But how to market? Should the Institute supply goods to the wholesalers, or retail them itself? Always bearing the blind worker in the fore of its deliberations, the Committee decided on the latter course, as, without a doubt, if you sell direct you get a bigger profit. So local sales of work and exhibitions were organised and up-to-date propaganda circulated; the goodwill of local residents was sought for and obtained; and sales proportionately increased. But the home worker was really working now; the more he was encouraged the more he worked—a most healthy sign—and the greater became the need for other selling methods. Accordingly, a motor van was purchased, and fitted with a specially-designed body; and to-day it is a familiar sight along the country roads, bringing the product of able workmanship and admirable courage to those who show their sympathy with good work and a fine spirit behind it by buying the handiwork of the blind. And what is the result of all these progressive efforts? A turnover which last year reached the sum of £10,000.

No other proof is needed; the blind home worker has found a market.

Then it was felt that the work of the Committee could be suitably extended by embracing the blind in workshops situated in the areas the scheme covers. As a result of this new activity, last year orders to the value of £3,200 were placed with these workshops.

Yet the blind are always blind, and blindness is always a handicap. It is impossible, whatever the quality of his work, for a blind man to equal the output of a sighted worker; consequently, his wages must always be less. In 1923, the Committee, therefore, emphasised to local authorities the urgent necessity of augmenting wages. Grants were obtained, and during the last three years the sum of £6,300 has been administered on behalf of local authorities by the Committee in augmentation grants.

As the scheme developed it became evident that some means of assisting home workers during times of sickness were required. A sick club was accordingly formed by opening a lodge of the Church Benefit Society, and the Committee agreed to meet two-thirds of the members' contributions.

In order to secure close co-operation between local authorities, county associations for the blind and the Institute, the Committee also established an advisory committee, which meets periodically and discusses matters affecting the welfare of home workers.

The Committee is strongly of the opinion that satisfactory work can only be produced by home workers if their working conditions are satisfactory and the very best tools and appliances are provided for their use. Considerable attention has therefore been given to this section of the scheme, and the amount expended in the provision of equipment since the scheme was introduced exceeds £1,200.

Let us close this brief account of a work of the highest utility with the following words from the Institute's Annual Report :—

"Only a personal visit can reveal all that blind men or women put into their handiwork, and the revelation should consecrate the product of quiet and steady industry under the most trying circumstances with a golden halo of admiration and sympathy. More often than not the blind will sing while at work ; and the spirit which inspires the cheerful voice is the spirit which inspires the busy hands. And it is that spirit of dogged courage in face of an undying foe that makes the blind man or woman a progressive unit amongst the world's workers." THE EDITOR.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND

THE next examination for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.19, will be held on Saturday the 2nd and Monday the 4th of July. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the date of the examination, must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years and be intending to remain so resident. Application should be made to the Principal on or before Monday the 13th of June, and the forms, properly filled in and completed, returned to the College on or before Saturday the 18th of June, or the candidate's name will not be placed on the list.

DEFINITION OF BLINDNESS

A CIRCULAR (No. 780) has been issued by the Ministry of Health relative to misunderstandings which appear to have arisen in the application of the criteria indicated in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Circular 681 to the determination of the question whether a person is "too blind to perform work for which eyesight is essential."

As stated in the latter circular, the Ministry, in interpreting this definition, followed the recommendations contained in the report of July 21st, 1915, of the Ophthalmological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, which expressed the opinion that, although they were likely to be useful as preliminary guides, the criteria quoted in paragraph 3 of the Circular should be regarded as purely tentative until experience of their application had been gained.

Circular 780 goes on to say :—The Blind Persons Act, 1920, has now been in operation for more than six years, and the Minister is advised that experience has shown that these criteria afford trustworthy guidance in determining whether a person is too blind to perform work for which eyesight is essential. A visual acuity greater than 6/60ths with the most suitable glasses may therefore be regarded, in the absence of such counter-balancing conditions as great contraction of the field of vision, marked nystagmus, etc., as presumptive evidence that the person is not too blind to perform work for which eyesight is essential. But the degree of visual acuity should not be regarded as the *sole* determining factor, and due consideration should, of course, be given to all visual conditions. At the same time, it is essential that only the visual conditions should be taken into account, and other bodily or mental infirmities should be disregarded. The test to be applied is not whether a person is unable to pursue his ordinary occupation, or any particular occupation, but whether he is too blind to perform work for which eyesight is essential.

All applications made to the Minister for the approval of new entrants to a grant-aided service for the blind should accordingly be accompanied by medical certificates giving (i) the degree of visual acuity in each eye of the new entrant, (ii) the nature and extent of the visual defects present, and (iii) a definite opinion, formed after due consideration of all

the visual conditions, that the person is too blind to perform work for which eyesight is essential.

Copies of the Circular are obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office, price 1d.

SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND

THE Board of Education has issued Administrative Memorandum No. 52, published for the information of local education authorities and managers of special schools, to take the place of the Schedule to Circular 1366, which is withdrawn. The memorandum indicates the Board's present requirements in regard to the full-time teaching staffs of special schools for blind, deaf, defective and epileptic children for the purposes of Article 9 (1) of their Special Services Regulations, 1925—Grant Regulations No. 19. This is the clause dealing with the adequacy and suitability of the staffs of special schools. As regards schools for the blind,

(*a*) Subject to the exceptions provided in paragraphs (*b*), (*c*) and (*h*) below, the head teacher of a school for blind children must be a certificated teacher and must either have completed satisfactorily an approved course of training specially designed to prepare for work in schools for blind children, or have passed an approved examination in the methods of teaching in schools for blind children.

(*b*) Any person recognised by the Board as a certificated teacher before 1st August, 1910, may be recognised by the Board as the head teacher of a school for blind children, provided that the Board are satisfied that he has had adequate experience in a school for blind children.

(*c*) (i) A teacher who has been recognised under previous regulations as the head teacher of a school for blind children may continue to be recognised as the head teacher of that school, and may be recognised as the head teacher of any other school for blind children.

(ii) The Board may recognise as the head teacher of a school for blind children a teacher who is not a certificated teacher but was recognised as an assistant teacher in a school or schools for blind children for a period of ten years before 1st August, 1910, provided that the Board are satisfied that he is personally qualified to discharge efficiently the duties of head teacher of a school for blind children.

(*d*) Subject to the exceptions provided for in paragraphs (*e*), (*f*), (*g*) and (*h*) below, an assistant teacher in schools for blind children must either :—

(i) Be qualified for recognition as a head teacher in accordance with paragraph 2 (*a*) or (*b*) above ; or

(ii) Be an uncertificated teacher and, in addition, either have passed an approved examination in the methods of teaching in schools for blind children or have completed satisfactorily an approved course of training specially designed to prepare for work in schools for blind children.

(*e*) Certificated and uncertificated teachers may be recognised temporarily as assistant teachers in schools for blind children for a period of two years from the date of their appointment pending their either :—

(i) Passing an approved examination in the methods of teaching in schools for blind children, or

(ii) Entering upon an approved course of training specially designed to prepare for work in schools for blind children.

(*f*) Teachers who have been recognised as assistant teachers in schools for blind children under previous regulations may continue to be so recognised, and the Board may, when they think fit, recognise as an assistant teacher any person over the age of 18, whether he is a certificated teacher or an uncertificated teacher or neither, provided that they are satisfied that he is personally qualified to act as a teacher in a school for blind children. Such recognition may be given temporarily pending his obtaining prescribed qualifications.

(*g*) Teachers of special subjects are not required to possess the qualifications prescribed in paragraph 2 (*d*) above, but they must in every case be recognised by the Board for service in special schools. Recognition will, as a rule, be given temporarily in the first instance pending the receipt of a report from the inspector.

(*h*) Teachers in schools for blind children will not as a rule be required to obtain the prescribed qualifications in methods of teaching in these schools so long as they are engaged in teaching partially blind children only.

WITH reference to the Book Review on page 11 of our last issue, we are informed that Mr. Godfrey Heathcote Hamilton was not the first editor of " Progress," although he was closely associated with the life of that periodical at a somewhat later date.

OPTICAL PRACTITIONERS (REGISTRATION) BILL



IT will be remembered that early in the year the House of Commons gave a first reading to the Optical Practitioners (Registration) Bill. Mr. Ben Purse, who has given the subject a great deal of attention, had some interesting comments to make upon the Bill at a discussion which took place in London recently.

Quoting the definition of the science of optometry contained in the Bill as follows :—

> " The practice of optometry, refraction,
> " or sight-testing, or the examination of
> " the human eye for the purpose of ascer-
> " taining any departure from the normal
> " state of vision, measuring its functional
> " powers and adapting or prescribing
> " mechanical means for the aid thereof,"

he said that it would be generally agreed that an optician in very ordinary cases could so prescribe, but he was exceedingly doubtful as to the ability of these men to diagnose properly any conditions other than those of simple refraction. It seemed to him that it was essential for those versed in the action of certain medicines on the body, with particular reference to the organism of the eye, to indicate properly the precise character of the lenses that ought to be employed when these conditions existed.

It was, he said, well known that men of considerable training, knowledge and experience often found difficulties in prescribing for these exceedingly complicated cases. It followed that those with a mere smattering of medical education could not in any sense whatever be trusted to provide a correct diagnosis, and the prescriptions upon which such diagnosis depended must, therefore, be equally disastrous.

If it were sought merely to establish a register of opticians, no one would be seriously disturbed ; but it seemed to him that the ostensible reason set forth in the Bill was not, after all, the underlying purpose which the promoters hoped to attain. They sought to give a status to the optician which did not properly belong to the trade whose business it was to supply glasses, not to diagnose serious complications or mitigate and counteract disease.

In the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness, published in 1922, page 105, this matter was, he said, treated very exhaustively. He quoted paragraphs 272-274 :—

> " It is agreed that the medical profession and the general public are greatly indebted to opticians for the increasingly excellent work done by them both in devising and perfecting optical instruments and in the making of glasses for those who suffer from errors of refraction. This work demands both a high degree of skill and special training, and it is natural that opticians who have acquired this skill and undergone this training should demand some form of official recognition which shall differentiate them from others not so equipped. Nevertheless, we are of opinion that it would be undesirable and a positive danger to the public for Parliament to pass any measure which might convey the idea that an optician, who is a person qualified to provide glasses prescribed by medical men, is (further) himself competent to examine the eyes of patients and to *prescribe* glasses for the correction of errors of refraction. . . . An optician who practises opthalmoscopy, and who advises and prescribes glasses for clients who consult him directly, poses by implication as an expert in the detection and treatment of eye defects, and claims a degree of medical knowledge which he does not possess. There is only one place where ophthalmology can be learnt, that is at a hospital, and an optician may do positive harm by prescribing glasses for cases in which error of refraction is accompanied by some disease which he is incapable of detecting."

Again, paragraph 277 :—

> " For the above reasons, we are of opinion that it would be undesirable in the interests of the public to establish a Register of Opticians such as has been suggested. The proper function of an optician is not to prescribe glasses, but to provide them to the prescription of an ophthalmic practitioner, and an official Register of Opticians would tend to mislead the public into thinking that registered opticians were competent to discharge functions which belong only to those who have had a medical training."

During the course of his work at the National Institute for the Blind, extending over eleven years, Mr. Purse said it had been his business to send hundreds of people for examination and treatment to ophthalmic surgeons. Frequently he had found patients who had been improperly fitted with glasses by opticians, and who, in consequence, had suffered untold injury. In many instances by proper examination and diagnosis it had been possible to mitigate some of this suffering, but oftentimes the injury done had been irreparable.

Although the Optical Practitioners (Registration) Bill had been given a first reading, the Government (realising the gravity of the situation) had appointed a Special Committee to examine the Bill and take evidence.

Briefly stated, his objections to the present Bill were of a three-fold character—firstly, that the compilation of the proposed Register would be calculated to give a wrong impression to the public in that it would be assumed that these men had obtained a status which would permit them legally to prescribe for all eye troubles, and thus the public would be lulled into a sense of false security.

Secondly, the machinery of the Bill was thoroughly unsatisfactory in that it placed the entire responsibility for admission into the trade in the hands of people who themselves could not be said to possess the essential medical knowledge upon which rejection alone should be based.

Lastly, the so-called Board of Examiners was, in point of fact, nothing but a colossal farce, for here again the medical personnel was reduced to an ineffective minimum.

[As we go to Press, we learn that, on advice from the Minister, the Bill was withdrawn pending the report from the Departmental Committee appointed to investigate the matter.—EDITOR.]

TEACHERS OF THE BLIND

THE annual meeting of the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind will be held on Saturday, June 18th, at 12 noon in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, W.1. A public meeting will be held at 2.30 p.m., when the speaker will be Mr. J. C. Stobart of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENT BY A BLIND MUSICIAN

WE have much pleasure in recording that Mr. Leonard A. Marsh, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., Music Master at the Brighton School for the Blind, recently received the welcome news that his "Exercise" for the Mus. Doc. degree at Durham had been accepted. The "Exercise" is an original composition in several movements, including a concert overture as setting to "Ode to St. Cecilia's Day" in six movements for full orchestra, solo and 8-part chorus, and it naturally involves a very wide knowledge of intricate musical writing. The fact that the composition submitted by Mr. Marsh occupies 228 pages of music manuscript is sufficient to show how much is required for this examination. Mr. H. G. Newell, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O.—whose success in obtaining the degree of Mus. Bac. was noted in *The Beacon* last year, and who is doing such excellent work as a visiting music teacher for the L.C.C. Schools for the Blind—was, like Mr. Marsh, a pupil at the Brighton School for the Blind, and afterwards at the Royal Normal College; and both of these gifted musicians have been greatly helped by Dr. Abdey of Brighton, a member of the N.I.B. Music Consultative Committee, and one who has given his time and experience ungrudgingly to the service of the blind. Dr. Abdey is one of the few sighted musicians who has an intimate working knowledge of Braille music, which has found expression in the copying into Braille of several full scores, in the setting out of which he exercised much ingenuity to enable music to be more readily grasped by the finger. He has lately added to his many kindnesses to the blind by putting into staff-notation Mr. Marsh's "Exercise." We offer Mr. Marsh our hearty congratulations upon his splendid achievement, and wish him success in the final examination for the degree of Doctor of Music, which has, as far as we are aware, been taken by only one blind musician in this country, the late Dr. S. Corbett, though, it will be remembered, it was conferred a short time back upon Dr. Alfred Hollins.

Advertisements for *The Beacon* should reach the Editor before the 20th of the month preceeding that of publication.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

PREPARATIONS for "Geranium Day" included many concerts, meetings and addresses during the month of April. On the afternoon of April 5th, the Lady Mayoress was At Home to the City depôt holders, of which she herself was leader, with her daughters and Mrs. Herbert Alington as aides-de-camp. Sir Beachcroft Towse, who was accompanied by Lady Towse, spoke movingly of the needs of the blind, and urged the importance of "Geranium Day" as an indispensable means of raising a large part of the essential funds to meet the just claims of the sightless upon their fellow citizens.

On the same evening another appeal was made by Dame Madge Kendal within the City boundary, in the historic Hall of the Middle Temple, where a delightful concert was held by the kind invitation of the Treasurer (Mr. A. MacMorran) and Benchers. The artistes, who generously gave their services, were Miss Flora Woodman, Miss Nora Drake, Mr. Harry Dearth, assisted by members of the G.L.F. Blind Concert Party. The programme sellers and stewards—as at the Inner Temple in December—were commanded by Mrs. Shuckburgh, daughter of the Common Serjeant.



PEARLY KINGS COLLECTING AT BETHNAL GREEN ON GERANIUM DAY.

On the 8th, at the request of the Camberwell "Helpers of the Blind," Sir Beachcroft Towse attended their annual pre-Geranium Day Concert, and in laying before them and the crowded audience an outline of the work which had been undertaken for the blind of London by the institutions and societies associated in the Greater London Fund, he expressed the Committee's gratitude for the splendid support received from the Camberwell "Helpers of the Blind." Especially did he mention Mr. Franklin Agutter, the untiring Secretary, and Mr. Green, Chairman of the Circle. His Worship the Mayor, wearing his robes of office, occupied the chair, and was accompanied by the Mayoress. Unfortunately another function awaited their presence, but the chair was ably occupied during the latter half of the programme by Mr. E. Campbell, M.P., President of the Circle. The Rev. J. W. Mattinson, Padre of the Brixton Group Toc H, moved a vote of thanks to Sir Beachcroft. The programme was entirely provided by the G.L.F. Party, who have also given concerts during the month at Cuffley, Wimbledon, Eltham, Crofton Park, Erith, Staines, Tollington Park, Northfleet and Southall.

Three members of the party entertained the purchasers at the successful Home Industries Exhibition at Sydenham, arranged through Lady Dawson, a member of the G.L.F. Social Committee. In opening the Sale, Lady Dawson expressed her regret that Sir Philip had not been able to be present to see the fine workmanship of the many and varied articles on the stalls, but she would tell him of this wonderful work, and she thanked Mr. Preece and Mr. Fairhurst for their lucid statements of the scope and progress of the Home Workers' Scheme. The Mayoress of Lewisham proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Dawson, which was seconded by Mrs. Ruston, the organiser of the Sale.

A concert to further "Geranium Day" was promoted by His Worship the Mayor of Stoke Newington (Captain Sandford Dod). The Mayoress took personal responsibility for the "front of the house," and there was a large attendance. The musical programme was arranged by Mr. Miles Mole, and included

items by blind artistes. During the interval, the Mayor strongly supported Mr. Preece's appeal for helpers for "Geranium Day." The Rev. Mr. Marshall also spoke.

Mrs. Broad, the energetic Secretary of Watford H.O.B., organised a successful whist drive on April 9th. Miss Johnston expressed the thanks of headquarters, and distributed the prizes. In the interval, songs were given by two blind artistes.

The Wood Green Women's Section of the Constitutional Association sent up a fine contribution as the result of a big whist drive, and still another similar event was held at Winchmore Hill with equal success, when a short address was given by Mr. E. H. Williams. Mention must be made of Mrs. Handley, who cleverly arranged a whist afternoon to gather players for the Wood Green drive, and was able to send independently a welcome financial gift. Regimental dances at Plumstead and Greenwich were among the many other events of a crowded month.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK

THE National Baby Week Council announce that National Baby Week will be celebrated again this year during the first week in July. We hope to publish an article on the subject next month, and meanwhile call our readers' attention to the excellent work which is being done by this organisation. This year the Council has issued the following note :—

" While regarding all aspects of maternity and child welfare work as important, the National Baby Week Council desires to draw special attention this year to the following :—

(*a*) Atmospheric pollution in relation to maternity and child welfare.

(*b*) Development of dental clinics, and dental care for mothers and for children under five.

(*c*) The home in relation to maternity and child welfare."

Pamphlets regarding the work of the Council, with particulars as to the organisation of Baby Week celebrations, are issued by the National Baby Week Council, 117 Piccadilly, London, W.1.

Mr. Sarvent, the blind organist of Newmarket, and his wife received congratulations from the King and Queen on their diamond wedding.

EXHIBITION OF WORK BY THE BLIND

AN exhibition of work done by the blind will be held in the Borough Hall, Royal Hill, Greenwich, on Thursday and Friday, 26th and 27th May. The exhibition will be open on both days from 2.30 to 10 p.m., and will include Braille writing and reading, basket-making, mattress-making, machine-knitting, chair-caning, type-writing.

The exhibition will include samples of work done in workshops for the blind, by blind persons in their own homes, and by children in the schools for the blind and partially blind in South-East London. Some of the blind (both adults and children) will be present, and will give demonstrations of their work.

The exhibition is designed to show what is being done to educate and train blind persons from childhood onwards. It will enable the public to see for themselves something of the skill and excellence of work which can be achieved without the aid of sight.

Many of the exhibits will be on sale. The proceeds will benefit the Workshop of the Blind of Kent and some of the home workers. The Workshop is registered under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, and under the Board of Education.

The price of admission for adults will be 3d. ; children will be admitted free, if accompanied by adults.

Mr. E. M. Dence (Tel. : Greenwich 1546), Fairfax House, Beaconsfield Road, Blackheath, S.E.3, will be happy, on behalf of the committee organising the exhibition, to answer any Press inquirers.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to May 11th, 656 wireless sets and 864 headphones have been distributed among the blind, the local associations acting as distributing centres.

As a result of the appeal, 357 wireless sets and 179 headphones have been received ; of these 11 sets and 8 pairs of headphones have been given during the past month. Donations from private sources and grants from the National Institute for the Blind have enabled the fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and the number distributed.

CONFERENCE OF WORKERS OF THE BLIND



WE have before us the report of the Conference of Local Authorities, Secretaries and Home Teachers, which took place at the Cloth-workers' Hall, London, on the 16th and 17th of March, when subjects of interest to the home teacher and visitor were discussed.

At the first session Miss M. E. Pearson opened a discussion on " A National Library for the Blind." She stated that more than 125,000 books were available for blind people at the National Library, and that from 600 to 800 volumes were loaned in one day.

A discussion on " Home Workers " was opened by Mr. J. M. Ritchie, who claimed that the schemes had amply justified themselves. He emphasised the fact that such schemes as these were commercial enterprises, and that there existed a big difference between hobby occupations and those followed by a home worker. Mr. A. Platt considered that a Home Workers' Scheme should have available craft instructors, market for goods, storage for materials and a workshop for preparation and finishing. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Platt said that it would be far better if the home workers in England and Wales were grouped under seven or eight schemes instead of under fifty, as was now the case. He considered retail trade the best market. It had many advantages :—

(1) The Society got a better price for the work.

(2) It enabled them to place orders with home workers when necessary, with the full knowledge that there would be a demand for the goods they made at a future date, so that they were not accumulating a vast stock.

(3) It enabled the Society, to a large extent, to keep one worker on one particular class of work. He agreed with Mr. Ritchie that the list of trades for home workers approved by the Ministry of Health was quite inadequate, pleading that any worker should be accepted if it could be proved that the grant would be used to increase his earnings. He also urged the necessity for a higher rate of augmentation for home workers.

On the second day, Mr. E. G. Bearn, of the Ministry of Health, discussed the application of the Health Insurance Acts to blind persons. In order to show the problems affecting the blind in their proper perspective, he said that the Health Insurance scheme affected some 40,000 blind people, while the number of persons, blind and sighted, which the scheme covered, was some 15,000,000. During each year some £23,000,000 were received in contributions ; approximately £13,000,000 were paid out annually in sickness and disablement benefit ; and in addition some £8,000,000 were expended in the provision of medical treatment, drugs, etc. The persons liable to be insured were, with certain exceptions, persons employed under a contract of service at a rate of remuneration not exceeding £250 a year, unless the employment were by way of manual labour. A class of insurable persons in which workers among the blind were interested were the home workers, or " outworkers," as they were called in the Health Insurance scheme. If they turned to the definition of an " outworker " in the Act, they would find that he was a person to whom articles were *given out* by another person to be made up or adapted for sale for the purposes of that other person's trade or business.

As regards Unemployment Insurance, he said that, broadly speaking, the qualifying conditions were the same as for Health Insurance.

Applying the main principles of insurance to the concrete problems with which workers among the blind were confronted, he said that the simplest case was that of blind employees at a workshop. It was clear that such persons were employed under a contract of service, and that such employment was insurable.

Another class of people with whom they were concerned were the trainees. To decide whether they were insurable, the facts of each particular case must be examined. Supposing it was the case of a trainee who, while undergoing a course of training, received no specific remuneration for his services, but was in receipt of a maintenance allowance or of disablement benefit, no contract of service was involved. Next, they were to suppose some slight payment was made to the man, in order to encourage him in his work. In this case

there was little question that that person would not be insurable ; but if the payment made to him bore any relation to the services which he rendered, and was governed thereby, then they would have to consider whether it were not contract of service.

There were, he said, one or two other classes of people to be considered, such as sighted guides, who were clearly employed under a contract of service, and were insurable.

Turning to the outworkers, the first point was that most of these were not employed under a contract of service. They were not under direct control, and unless employed under a contract of service, outworkers were not insurable for unemployment, though they were insurable for health and pensions. Another point to decide was whether a home-worker was an outworker within the meaning of the Act ; and here every individual case must be taken into consideration. As a general principle they could take it that home workers who were merely attached to an agency would normally not be insurable, but if the materials were actually given out by the institution, and the finished articles were returned by the home worker to the institution, and the institution sold the articles, the case would clearly come within the definition of " outworker," and the employment would be insurable.

The benefits with which they were mainly concerned were sickness and disablement benefits. These were payable when a person was incapable of work by reason of some specific disease or by bodily or mental disablement.

This definition of incapacity was, of course, different from the definition in the Blind Persons Act. The Blind Persons Act definition was that a person was entitled to a pension if he were so blind as to be unable to perform work for which eyesight was essential. So it might be that a blind person, though eligible for pension under the Blind Persons Act, might not be eligible for benefit under the Insurance Act. On the other hand, the fact that an Old Age Pension under the Blind Persons Act was being received in no way took away the right to sickness and disablement benefit if, in fact, the person were incapable of work.

As regards the position of trainees, and the question whether or not they were entitled to have sickness or disablement benefit while undergoing a period of training, it was, he said, perfectly clear that if a society had paid sickness or disablement benefit to a blind person, and was satisfied that that person was capable of being trained for remunerative work, the society was entitled to say to him " You must undergo training, and we will pay you benefit while you are undergoing that training." If the blind person unreasonably refused to undertake that training, the society might be justified in stopping the payment of benefit. The Department had made it clear to societies that in considering the question of whether or not a person were capable of training, regard must be had to his age and his previous employment.

The speaker said that the subject of pastime workers was a difficult one. If they wished a person in receipt of disablement benefit to undertake pastime work, of which the amount was so slight as to be almost negligible and could not be considered remunerative work, it was probable that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, societies would adopt a reasonable attitude if workers among the blind would give the societies the benefit of their knowledge and their experience.

Miss Joan Lloyd read an interesting paper on " Pastime Occupations," in which she detailed many of the things that a home teacher should impart. With regard to handicrafts, she said that the first place should be given to knitting, which was interesting as well as soothing. The next handicraft in popularity was pulp-cane basketry. Straw-plait bags was less skilled work of the same kind, but effective and easy to dispose of when well made. Chair-caning and rush-seating were not of much use as pastime handicrafts. All kinds of netted goods could be made if orders were obtained, and there might also be scope for netted curtains, in thick coloured cotton, which should be very saleable. Wool rugs were a distinctly popular handicraft. Beadwork, she considered, was rather intricate. Pupils with a taste for carpentry, who had done something in this way before becoming blind, could often make wooden boxes, shelves, small cupboards, or wooden toys. Leather work was not usually practical unless it had been previously done when sighted.

At the third session Miss M. G. Thomas read a paper on " Social Welfare Work."

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)



AY I be permitted to make yet again another brief reference to the vexed problem of production costs and the allied and interdependent subject of wage conditions. Many of my friends appear to think that the cost of production is no business of theirs. It does not seem to occur to them that the improper use of material, or the wastage of the same, bears any relationship to wages, but surely this conception is due either to ignorance or to callous indifference as to the responsibilities which legitimately devolve upon them. The fact that we are engaged by a charitable institution surely implies that we should make the very best possible use of our opportunities for service ; also, in the interests of the public, it is due to them that as far as possible we should be able to say with confidence that we are economical in the utilisation of the means at our disposal, and that we husband our resources in such a manner as to provide for unforeseen contingencies.

In the final analysis all economic earnings are based upon cost of production. If those costs soar unduly high, then it necessarily follows that wages must remain low, but if by any chance the initial costs are heavy and wages unduly high, then bankruptcy and ruin are inevitably the concomitant results.

It will be seen then that it is esssentially the intimate business and concern of the blind worker to make his contribution in no stinted manner towards the reduction of the primary costs to which I have referred ; but, of course, his service, valuable as it is, cannot alone achieve the purposes we have in view. It is the business of the employer to see that the raw material is not only good in quality, but that it is purchased in the best markets and that without the intervention of the middleman who invariably takes such a toll for his services as to cripple industry in its very inception. Experience has taught me to regard this contention as one of primary importance ; and, although the system of paying liberal commissions is fast disappearing from the arena of the commercial enterprise in which we are engaged, I fear it has not yet been entirely eliminated.

It has been said with much truth on many previous occasions that if we are to maintain a status in those industries that are generally practised by the blind, it is incumbent upon us to inculcate a wider conception of the principle of co-operation among our trading agencies. All over the country we have comparatively small organisations purchasing in a hand-to-mouth fashion the quantities of raw material required for their purposes ; and, of course, such purchases are made under conditions where economic buying is absolutely impossible, the result of this process being that production costs are swollen to such an extent as to deprive the organisations involved of any semblance of a chance of competing with other manufacturers on anything like equal terms.

We are living in days when large aggregations of capital, by reason of the possession of substantial purchasing power, can enter the competitive market under most advantageous conditions, and the time has arrived when our voluntary agencies should take this wholesome lesson to heart unless they intend to be ruthlessly forced outside the region of practical business.

Within recent years no very serious effort has been made to bring together these trading interests with a view to ascertaining the degree to which the co-operation of which I have spoken may be possible, and this is a situation much to be deplored ; for, if common business interests can pool their resources for the purchasing of raw material, surely, in the name of all that is reasonable, those organisations that are inspired by altruistic motives should not be less disposed to trust each other.

It is not intended here in the slightest degree to minimise the difficulties that will have to be overcome before co-operative buying and selling can be made an integral part of our system of trading, but these difficulties can never be surmounted by an attitude of supine indifference such as is to-day exhibited towards this pressing problem. Some one has said with much truth that " difficulties only exist to be overcome," and it is futile to profess to be appalled by the magnitude of the task and to allow the old bad system to continue without a single effort of a reformatory character being undertaken.

To provide employment for the blind is to many agencies the sole justification for their existence ; it is the life-blood of all constructive effort, and without it we would inevitably relapse into a condition which characterised by-gone centuries. This would be the death-knell of all progressive effort, and represents an unthinkable proposition.

It is of little use blaming the manual worker for an irreconcilable attitude towards the employment agencies, if these authorities show themselves to be so unmindful of commonly-accepted economic theory and practice by failing so to organise their resources as to eliminate all superfluous forms of expenditure and waste.

Of late, one has heard much discussion on the desirability of convening national conferences ; but the solution of urgently-pressing problems is rarely found in these great conclaves. What we need at the present time is a greater concentration upon definitely-ascertained weaknesses, and a constructive effort to eliminate such by those who are experienced in negotiating complicated and delicate situations. If those authorities interested in industrial organisation and employment would come together with a determination to escape from the present *impasse* by entering upon an era of mutual co-operation in the purchasing of raw material and the marketing of finished goods, they would thereby have made such a practical contribution to welfare work on behalf of the blind as no ordinary annual conference could ever emulate.

I have dwelt at length on these matters because in the stress and strain of commercial life as we know it to-day there is real danger, it seems to me, of our industries continuing to be the Cinderella occupations which have heretofore been the lot of the blind worker. I venture to think that a different conception is dawning upon us, and that the old idea of forcing people to weave coir yarn, to fashion brushes or construct various articles in basketry, shall not henceforth be the Alpha and Omega of our existence. In the better days that are coming to us taste, capacity and the desire to serve will be the dominant key-note of our lives, and to fashion such a system is a superb privilege and opportunity conferred upon us which is seldom vouchsafed to mortal men.

(*To be continued.*)

NEWS IN BRIEF

A crew of eight blind oarsmen from Worcester College for the Blind will compete for the Thames Cup at Henley Regatta this summer.

David Williams, the Cardiff blind boy organist, has reached another stage in his academic career by adding the L.R.A.M. degree to his A.R.C.O.

A large and active committee has been formed at Longton for the purpose of caring for the blind persons in that part of the Potteries.

Blind people in Maidstone have now been supplied with one-valve wireless sets from the fund organised by Mr. Evelyn Seymour, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Kent County Association for the Blind, and also of the Maidstone Association.

The work of adapting the factory at Possilpark, which has been acquired by the Glasgow and South-West Scotland Joint Committee as an additional workshop for the blind, is making rapid progress. The premises are being refitted and reconstructed internally, while external renovations are also contemplated. The factory will not be ready for occupation for two or three months, but when completed will afford accommodation for over 300 blind workers. The purchase price was £18,000.

MUSICAL SUCCESSES

WE congratulate Miss Irene Luff and Mr. David Williams, A.R.C.O., upon obtaining the L.R.A.M. diploma in piano playing. This adds yet two more names to the already long list of Royal Normal College successful candidates for this diploma.

BLIND BOY PIANIST

AGED 8 years, a boy named Bernard Havel has just given a marvellous pianoforte concert at Rouen.

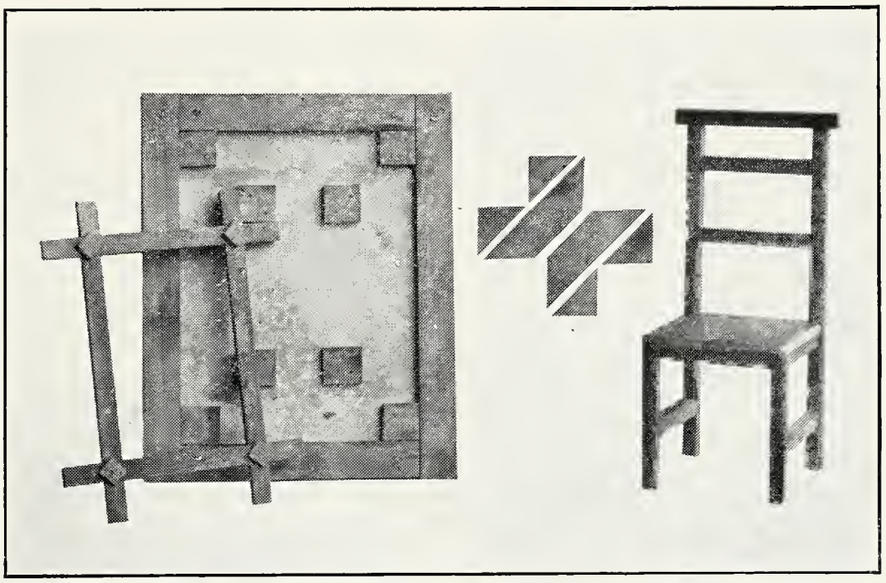
Havel, who is totally blind, began studying the pianoforte at the age of five, and among the pieces that he performed with skill and technique were works by Mozart, Schumann, Bizet and Handel.

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

STRIP WOODWORK

THE quarterings, planks, battens and laths of the joiner and cabinet maker in miniature, planed and ready for use, all difficult woodwork joints eliminated and equipment reduced to a minimum—such, in a word, is strip work, the simplest woodwork of all. But though simple and requiring little preliminary practice, capable of producing a fair range of useful and ornamental articles suitable for bazaars, etc., and possibly for a wider market, at the least an interesting pastime occupation for those able to handle simple tools.

EQUIPMENT.—A strip woodwork cutting block (1/6) is indispensable. This is made of hard wood and has saw guides for cutting angles of 45, 60 and 90 degrees, and has also a sliding gauge which can be adjusted to the length required, so that any number of pieces can be cut to the same length with perfect accuracy. The tools are those used in all light woodwork, some of which were given in the article on Wooden Tray Making. A fine-toothed tenon saw and the brass rule supplied by the National Institute are two essential items; other tools likely to be required are described in the catalogues of firms such as Hobbies, Ltd., Dereham, Norfolk, and Handicrafts, Ltd., Lister Works, Weedington Road, Kentish Town, N.W.5, from whom the strip wood also can be obtained, either direct or through a local ironmonger or other dealer handling such goods.



ST. GEORGE'S CROSS PUZZLE, OXFORD FRAME IN JIG, DOLL'S CHAIR.

MATERIALS.—Stripwood is sold in two-foot lengths in about eight sizes, square and flat, the largest flat being 1 inch by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and the largest square $\frac{1}{2}$ inch by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Prices range from about $\frac{1}{2}$d. to 1d. per foot. For fastening the pieces together liquid glue, and, in the case of sighted workers, fine panel pins are used. For sightless workers stouter nails with larger heads or fine screws are recommended. In some articles round-headed brass screws are suitable and give the work a smart appearance.

THE ST. GEORGE'S CROSS PUZZLE.—The making of this is a simple first exercise in accurate cutting, and the putting together of the pieces to form the cross is sufficiently puzzling to tax the ingenuity of the friends of the maker; many other puzzles can be made on similar lines. A piece eleven inches long cut from a 1 in. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. strip is required. First cut one end to an angle of 45 degrees, and then make a second cut at an angle of 90 degrees, so that a triangular piece with a two-inch base is taken off. Proceed in a similar way until four such triangles have been cut off. This leaves a piece six inches long at one side and seven at the other. On the six-inch side measure two inches from the cut and saw diagonally as before, so as to produce a piece two inches long at one side and four inches long at the other. Lastly, cut the end of the remaining piece so as to give a second piece of the same dimensions as the last. This gives the six pieces necessary which, after being smoothed with glasspaper, are ready for use.

AN OXFORD PHOTOGRAPH FRAME.—This example serves to illustrate two principles, both of which can be applied to other kinds of woodwork. The first is the process of "building up" as an alternative to the more

difficult rebating, mortising, etc., which necessitates cutting away. The second is that of the "jig," invaluable to the sightless worker. A jig in woodwork may be compared to a mould in ironwork, and the former, like the latter can be used to produce any number of articles or parts exactly alike and perfectly accurate. The Oxford frame about to be described holds a picture of ordinary postcard size, and is built up of pieces of stripwood glued together, no nails or screws being necessary. First of all the jig must be prepared, and this has for a base either the top of bench or a separate piece of stout wood large enough for the purpose. To the base is screwed an outer framework of 1 in. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. strip, with an inside measurement of $8\frac{1}{4}$ ins. by $6\frac{1}{4}$ ins., and a piece 1 in. square is fixed in the inner angle at each corner. Four more pieces 1 in. square are required, and these are fixed at $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. from the sides and ends of the outer frame at each corner. To proceed now to the making of the picture frame, the following lengths will be required, all cut from $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{1}{8}$ in. strip :— two pieces $8\frac{1}{4}$ ins. ; two, $6\frac{1}{4}$ ins. ; two, $3\frac{1}{4}$ ins. ; two, $5\frac{1}{4}$ ins. ; and eight, 1 in. To illustrate the manner in which the pieces are assembled in the jig, let us take one side as an example. The lower half consists of one of the $8\frac{1}{4}$ in. pieces, on top of which two 1 in. pieces are placed at either end with a $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. piece in the middle, leaving two $\frac{1}{2}$ in. gaps to accommodate the $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. pieces which form the upper halves of the top and bottom of frame respectively. When the pieces forming the lower half of the frame have been placed in position in the jig, they are given a thin coating of glue, the remaining pieces placed in position above them, and the whole left under a weight until the glue is thoroughly set. The framing is done by means of two strips 6 ins. long and two 4 ins. long, cut from $\frac{1}{4}$ in. by $\frac{1}{8}$ in. strip, mitred at the corners and glued to back of frame. After the glass and picture have been placed in position, they are held by clips or a piece of stout brown paper glued to the framing strips.

Dolls' Furniture.—For the seats of chairs, the tops of tables, and other similar parts fretwood or ply-wood can be used to advantage. Wood $\frac{3}{8}$ in. square is suitable for legs, etc., and the ends of the various parts must be smoothed with sandpaper before being glued and nailed or screwed together. The fullest use should be made of jigs, particularly in the case of pieces to be joined together at right angles, and the fixing should be done while the parts are in the jig, where they are left till the glue is set.

Stripwood is ideal for the making of models, and many useful knick-knacks, such as hanging baskets, pipe racks, etc., will suggest themselves to the ingenious reader.

A. G. K.

OBITUARY

A. N. SHAW, B.A., A.R.C.M.

ON the 21st April, 1927, Sunderland sustained a severe loss in the death of its blind schoolmaster, Mr. A. N. Shaw, B.A., A.R.C.M. Mr. Shaw was educated at Worcester College for the Blind and graduated at Oxford with first-class honours. He was engaged in the School for the Blind at York before being appointed to Sunderland over seven years ago. He was a profound thinker, and a scholar of the best type, conscious of what he did not know rather than of what he did know.

Those who knew him intimately can testify to his learning in the fields of law, literature, philology, history, music and science. His affectionate nature and quiet life of loving service endeared him to his pupils and their parents.

The adult blind have publicly expressed their deep sorrow at the loss of a sincere friend, who in the largeness of his heart never failed them in the hour of trouble.

His personal friends feel that their loss is irreparable, yet they are extremely grateful that they have been privileged to know so great and noble a man.

He did excellent work among the Bible Classes, Brotherhoods, etc., of the town, and his inspiring addresses will long be remembered. Many have borne testimony to the help and encouragement which they afforded.

Mr. Shaw, who was a native of Elland, Yorkshire, was in his 60th year, and is mourned by a widow, son and daughter.

His remains were cremated at Darlington, in accordance with his desire.

While a blind organist, Mr. Fred Andrews, was playing in the church of St. Silas, Blackburn, the tower was struck, and he fell back momentarily stunned, but was soon able to hurry out.

NATIONAL LIBRARY EXTENSION

MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN, the Minister of Health, opened the new building which has been added to the National Library for the Blind in Westminster on the afternoon of April 27th. Mr. Baldwin was to have performed the ceremony, but regretted that, owing to the heavy calls upon his time, he could not be present.

Lord Blanesburgh presided at the opening ceremony. After Mr. Neville Chamberlain's speech, Canon Carnegie read the simple Dedication Service, and Mr. W. L. Hichens, representing the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, proposed the vote of thanks.

Not the least interesting feature of the afternoon was the address of welcome read from embossed type by little Phyllis Frost in the name of all the Library's readers. "Braille books," she concluded, "are our friends; as time goes on we need more and more of them to read. There simply wasn't an inch of room in the old Library, and to-day is a red-letter day for us all, Mr. Minister; it marks the opening of a lovely new home for our friends the Braille books."

The Library was thrown open to visitors during the afternoon, and a large number of friends availed themselves of the opportunity to visit all departments and see the work which is being carried on.

The treatment of the building with its entrance in Great Smith Street was dictated, to some extent, by that of the adjoining houses. The erection of the main cornice in Portland stone ranging with those of adjoining properties was a condition rightly imposed by the ground landlord, and the lowest storey has been faced with the same stone.

The ground floor consists of an entrance hall, with reading room and board room on either side and a large hall in which half the stock of the Braille fiction is housed. The first floor contains the administrative offices. The basement, second and third floors are entirely devoted to shelving accommodation, as are the galleries connecting the new with the old building.

Certain alterations and improvements have been carried out in the old building, including the erection of a spacious new charging counter, whilst a combined passenger and goods lift has been installed to facilitate the transit of books to and from the shelves and the despatch room. The lighting throughout has been modernised. The caretaker's quarters are on the fourth floor.

The architects are Messrs. Tatchell and Wilson, F.R.I.B.A.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

CLASSICS.

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
Euripides :	Supplices	1
Plato ;	Georgias (trans. by F. G. Plaistowe)	2

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Swift. J.	Gulliver's Travels	4
Wright, J. and E. M.	Middle-English Grammar	3

ESSAYS AND BELLES LETTRES.

Lowell, J. R.	My Study Windows	6

HISTORY.

Guizot, F.	Histoire de la Civilisation en Europe	6

MODERN LANGUAGES.

France, Anatole.	Les Opinions de M. Jérome Coignard	3

SCIENCE.

Scott, D. H.	Evolution of Plants	2

WE regret that in our last issue we stated that the sum of £13,979 was allocated to the London Association for the Blind by the Greater London Fund for the Blind. The correct amount was £3,135 18s. 3d. The sentence should have read "The sum of £3,135 18s. 3d. was allocated from the Greater London Fund for the Blind, and £10,843 16s. 8d. was realised by subscriptions, donations, etc., less cost of collection."

A BLIND SCIENTIST

AT the last meeting of the Technical Section of the Paper-makers Association, Mr. Rex Furness delivered a lecture on the subject of "Silicate of Soda" in its application to papermaking, says *The Bookseller*. Mr. Furness became totally blind whilst doing research work during the war. Although thus handicapped he has still continued his work, and on the occasion in question, he stood up before his audience and addressed them on this very technical and scientific subject for over an hour in a perfectly fluent and easy manner.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—(*Continued from page 2 of Cover*)

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

BELLES LETTRES—

7393-7395 Sartor Resartus, by Thomas Carlyle, 3 vols. .. .. per vol. 9 0

7385, 7386 Wisdom and Destiny, by Maurice Maeterlinck, 2 vols. .. .. per vol. 6 3

BIOGRAPHY—

7401-7406 The Life of Charlotte Bronte, by E. C. Gaskill, 6 vols. .. .. per vol. 9 0

7413-7420 The Life of Samuel Johnson, by James Boswell, 8 vols. .. .. per vol. 8 9

EDUCATIONAL—

7572-7574 The Revised English Grammar for Beginners, by Alfred S. West, M.A., 3 vols. .. .. per vol. 5 0

JUVENILE—

7149 The Silver Birch, by Isa J. Postgate 3 9

7150, 7151 The Silver Birch, by Isa J. Postgate, 2 vols. .. .. per vol. 4 9

POETRY—

7410-7412 Paradise Lost, by John Milton, 3 vols. .. .. per vol. 8 6

7444 The Proud King, from "The Earthly Paradise," by William Morris 2 6

LITERARY CRITICISM—

7448-7451 The English Novel, by Sir Walter Raleigh, 3 vols. .. .. per vol. 8 9

RELIGIOUS—

5742 Haggai, Zachariah and Malachi (Authorised Version) 3 8

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

2577-2581 The Day's Play, by A. A. Milne, 5 vols. (limited edition) .. .. per vol. 12 0

2366 St. John, Chapter 2 (Giant type) 1 6

2367 St. John, Chapter 3 (Giant type) 2 6

2375 Instructions for Reading the Moon System 0 6

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

LIST OF ADDITIONS

May, 1927.

FICTION.

Alington, C. A. Count of Kensington .. 3 vols.
Beresford, J. D. Invisible Event .. .. 6 vols.
Brazil, Angela. Patriotic Schoolgirl .. .. 4 vols.
Chase, Beatrice. Lady Avis Trewithen .. 3 vols.
Croker, B. M. Blue China .. .. .. 5 vols.
Haggard, Sir H. Rider. Ancient Allan .. 4 vols.
Harker, L. Allen. Broken Bow .. .. 4 vols.
Hichens, R. Last Time .. .. .. 1 vol.
*James, Henry. Lesson of the Master .. 1 vol.
*James, Henry. Next Time: Coxon Fund from "Lesson of the Master" .. .. 1 vol.
*Oxenham, J. Gate of the Desert .. .. 3 vols.
*Wells, H. G. First Men in the Moon .. .. 2 vols.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Allen, P. Impressions of Provence .. .. 5 vols.
Barrett, Sir W. F. Death-bed Visions .. 2 vols.
Chambers, E. K. Shakespeare: A Survey .. 4 vols.
Foster, Sir Wm. John Company: History of the East India Company ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund") .. .. 5 vols.
Goodrich-Freer, A. Things seen in Palestine 1 vol.
Hagerty, A. M. Economics for the People .. 1 vol.
Haverfield, E. Romanization of Roman Britain ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund") 2 vols.
*Hazlitt, W. Selected Essays .. .. .. 5 vols.
Heath, C. Religion and Public Life .. .. 1 vol.
Hodgkin, H. Pennsylvania and South Africa 1 vol.
James, W. P. Lure of the Map .. .. 2 vols.
Jeavons, F. B. Comparative Religion .. 2 vols.
King, Basil. Faith and Success .. .. 2 vols.
Masefield, J. Recent Prose .. .. .. 2 vols.
Priestley, J. B. Talking .. .. .. 1 vol.
*Waterton, C. Wanderings in South America, the United States and the Antilles .. .. 3 vols.
Williams, H. Noel. Madame de Pompadour ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund") .. .. 7 vols.

GRADE I.

Baker, M. and M. Little Girl who Curtsied to the Owl .. .. 1 vol.

MOON.

Locke, W. J. Glory of Clementina Wing .. 8 vols.
Stevenson, R. L. Virginibus Puerisque .. 4 vols.

* Presented by the National Institute for the Blind.

BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Progress.—Lister : A Benefactor of Humanity—The Order of the Garter—Pretty Girl (Poem)—The Sunny South—The Last Stronghold of Real Asia—National Library for the Blind : Reading Competition—Our Prize Competition — Correspondence — Advertisements — Matters of the Moment—Queer Taxes—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page—The Siege of Berlin. Supplements : " Progress " Chess ; Home Occupations for the Blind : Jumper with Scarf Polo Collar (concluded). Announcements. (Subscription : Inland and abroad : 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—What the Nineteenth Century Misses in the Twentieth—The Chinese Problem through Chinese Eyes—Disraeli as Novelist—Mine Rescue Work —The Attractions of Old Playbills—Mr. Gould's New Poems. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—The Story of the Post Office, No. 5 : Cables and Wireless—Nature does not Waste her Powers—A King in Captivity—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—A Trip on a Trawler—The Thrush's Nest (Poem) —Using up a Mystery. Supplements : " Comrades " ; Announcements ; Map of the Basin of the Trent. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Song-Writers of the Day : Martin Shaw—Obituary : Edward Lloyd—Review : " The Scope of Music "—Felix Borowski—Tuners' Column—The " Little Organ Book " of Bach. Supplements : Braille Music Reviews ; Announcements ; Insets : Organ : " Allegro Marziale," by H. Greenhill ; Piano : " Petite Valse," by A. Lindow. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 8s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

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Santa Lucia.—St. John's Guild for the Blind—Bananas (The Observer)—Day of Terror at Nanking (The Observer)—How Long can we Stay where we are ? (My Magazine)—Gabriel Samara : Book 1, Chapters xv-xvii (E. Philip Oppenheim)—Canberra (John o' London's Weekly)—Thought for the Month—The Great Seal. 1s. 8d. per month, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Formulae : Their Usefulness—News Items—The Poet's Corner—Questions in Parliament—Favourite Quotations—Correspondence—Stageland—Observations on China—Advertisements and General Notices—The Year 1920, and After—Poor Law Guardians and the Blind. Supplements : Literary : " One of the Greatest Englishmen " ; " Songs of Rapture." Music : History of a Song Cycle : " The Indian Love Lyrics," by A. B. Cooper ; Piano : " Memories of Springtime," by Lingard. Announcements. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription : 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

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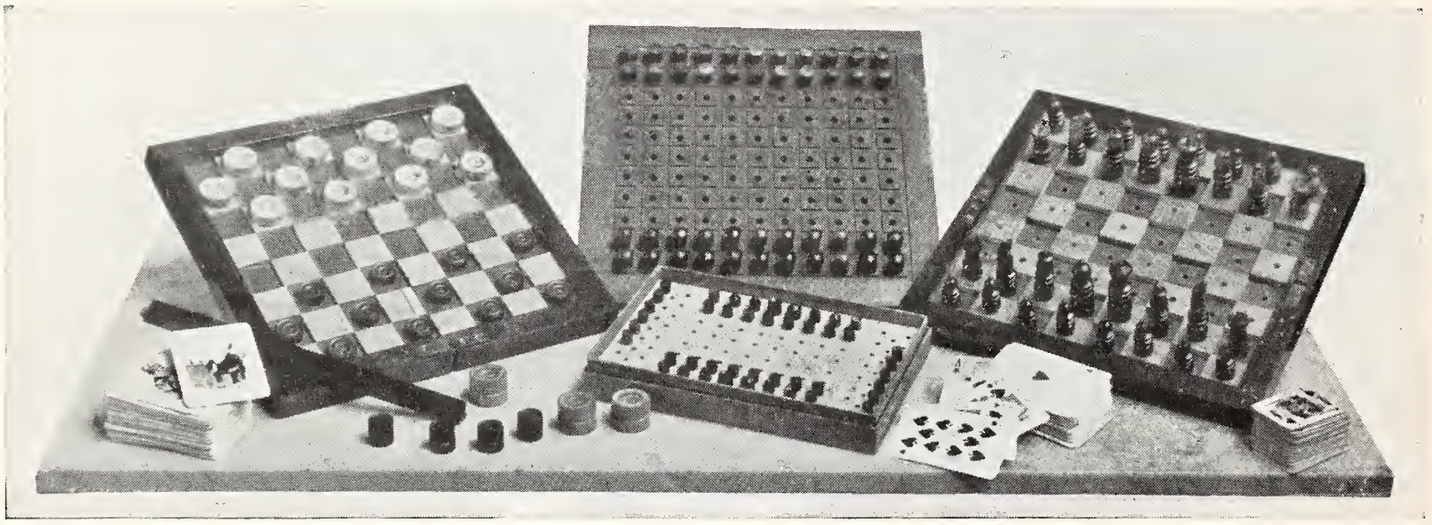
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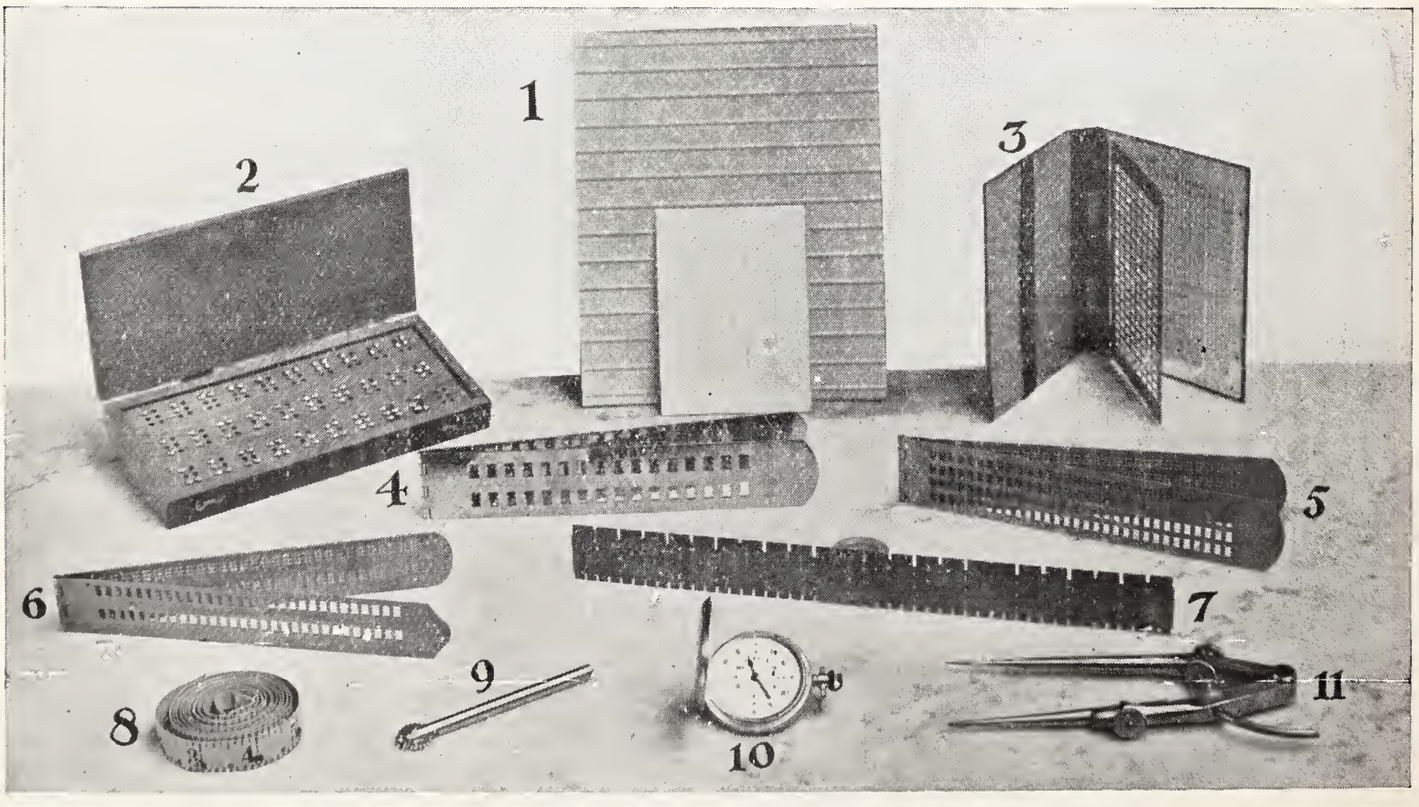
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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1927

JULY

Vol. XI No. 127

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

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The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.
The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d
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7224-7230	" The Moonstone," by Wilkie Collins, 7 vols.	per vol.	6	6
	RELIGIOUS—			
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5740	Hosea, Joel and Amos (Authorised Version)		3	11
5741	Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habukkuk, Zephaniah (Authorised Version)		3	9

(*Continued on page 3 of Cover*)

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XI.—NO. 127. JULY, 1927. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

HOW TO NET A GARDEN HAMMOCK



THE importance of netting is illustrated by the fact that Little Bridport in Dorset, by turning its attention from fishing nets to sports nets, has become in a few years the centre of a large and thriving industry. In commercial production, machinery plays a large part, but hand netting still keeps its place as a simple, pleasing, and not unprofitable pastime occupation for the sightless.

One reason for its popularity is, doubtless, the inexpensive nature of the equipment, a netting needle and a mesh stick being the only items of a special nature that are required. For our present purpose the needle, which can be obtained at most fancy shops, should be about eight inches long, by three-quarters of an inch wide. The mesh stick is simply a flat piece of hard wood with rounded edges round which the meshes are formed, the width of the stick determining the size of the meshes. For a hammock a stick one-and-a-half inches wide is suitable.

Two or three balls of good quality string or thick macramé twine will be required, also some stout cord for the edges and ends of hammock and two rounded ash sticks, each two feet in length, for keeping the ends of hammock stretched out.

After filling the needle, begin by tying a loop at the end of the string and place the knot (not the loop) over a convenient hook so that the loop is on the right and single string on the left. Now take the mesh stick, and, holding it in the left hand in a horizontal position with the thumb in front and fingers behind, place it behind the single string and just below the loop. With the right hand pass needle under mesh stick, and up through loop, pull string tight in the direction of left shoulder and retain it by pressure of the left thumb, at the same time keeping loop and single string apart with the tip of the left forefinger. By a turn of the right wrist, the string is now made to lie loosely to the left in the form of a loop or bight, the needle is passed round under work and up through the space kept open by the left forefinger, through the bight just formed, and, lastly, the knot is completed by pulling string tight, retaining pressure with the left thumb as long as possible so that knot is close to upper edge of mesh stick.

Remove mesh stick, and after placing it behind the string, with the loop just formed in the same position as that occupied by the first loop, form another mesh by repeating the movements given above. Continue in this way, withdrawing the mesh stick after each knot has been completed, till a chain of about forty-five meshes has been formed, this necessitating twice the number of knots. In reality, this chain has twice the above number of meshes, and when opened out at right angles to the direction in which it was made gives two rows of meshes running the width of the hammock to which are now added further rows to the number of about fifty to bring the hammock to the required length.

After removing chain from hook, begin at the end where the string is and do the first row by placing each mesh of what is now the preceding row in turn upon the hook while the new mesh below it is being made. All the meshes are formed as described above, each loop of the preceding row being caught up in turn. We now have three rows of meshes, and at this stage a length of string may be threaded through the first row of loops, the ends tied, and the loop thus formed placed over the hook, after which row after row can be worked without difficulty. As each row is completed, the work is turned so as to bring the string to the left ready for the next row, all netting being done from left to right. Should the mesh stick become full, meshes may be dropped off on the left to make room for more on the right. When the needle becomes empty, it is refilled and the new end of string knotted to the old so that the join comes at the end of the row.



A Garden Hammock

There are several ways of finishing off a hammock, the simplest, perhaps, being the following. Thread a piece of cord through the outer loops along each side of hammock, and fasten the ends to the two ash sticks one of which has been previously threaded through the loops at each end. For the purpose of suspending the hammock, the end of a stout cord is firmly attached to the end of one of the ash sticks, and the other end of the cord to its other end in the form of a triangle ; a second cord is attached in the same way to stick at other end of hammock.

Another way is to cut some fairly stout cord into lengths of about one yard, one length for every two loops at end of hammock. Place the cords together, double them and bind them together in the centre. Then tie each of the free ends to one of the loops of the net, threading an ash stick through as before to which the end meshes are tied to keep net stretched to correct width. In this case also cords are threaded along sides of hammock and attached to the sticks.

To give added strength to ends of hammock the two first and the two last rows of netting may be done with doubled string. To accomplish this, use doubled string for the chain of meshes with which work is begun, and introduce a second string before commencing the last two rows. In some hammocks a double string is used throughout.

The kind of netting here described is that known as fisherman's netting. Another method of forming the knots is in use and will be found described in the booklet, " Instructions for Netting," published by the National Institute for the Blind. Other netted articles are illustrated and described in Weldon's " Practical Netting," price 3d. A. G. K.

BLIND CHESS PLAYERS

"THE blind Henley crew from Worcester College for the Blind," says the *Daily Mail* of June 24th, " who will challenge all the sighted crews to meet them in a friendly match at chess, hope to carry on the high traditions of their College in the game.

" During the past 14 years the blind chess players of the College have played 78 matches against other public schools, of which they have won 74 and lost 4. This season they have played 15 matches against sighted town clubs and schools, winning 14 and drawing 1."

SUNSHINE AND CHILD LIFE



HAVE any of you ever experimented with a few flowers by growing them in a very dark corner where the light of the sun never penetrates? The result is heart-breaking for the flower, and it is pitiful to see the efforts that the blooms have made to overcome the unwholesome conditions and forlorn surroundings. Given that everything else required for the growth of the flower was provided, yet one essential was lacking, and that of the most vital importance—sunlight. The plants were either weedy or dwarfed, the flowers were colourless and diminutive, the perfume faint and the seeds without full fruition.

Now look at another picture. This is infinitely more pathetic and distressing. In the slums of our great cities we find little human flowers blooming in darkness and gloom where the sunshine rarely penetrates during the winter, and where even in the summer the rays are mingled with shadows of obstructive buildings, without the soothing effect of a patch of nature's green. Not only does the human being benefit by the visible rays of the sun, but still more by the invisible rays which are prevented from reaching the city children by the thick curtain of smoke which so often hangs over our great towns like a grey blanket. Sunlight is as essential to human existence as it is to plant life. Agriculturalists do not grow our vegetable foods in the heart of great industrial centres but where every hour of sunshine can be utilised to the greatest possible advantage. Is the human race not of more importance than the plants it eats?

Of recent years experiments have been made to provide for the lack of sunlight. High-power lamps, which can generate the ultra-violet or the invisible ray of sunlight, have been installed in special clinics, in all the great hospitals and in many Infant Welfare centres. Children are showing their gratitude by better health, fewer cases of rickets, and fitter conditions to cope with the numerous child ailments which take away the children when still in the toddler age. But it is necessary to get further to the root of the trouble. Attack the smoke evil. Obtain legislation, local and national, to enforce large factories to consume their own smoke and burn fuel that does not pollute the atmosphere. These islands of ours have so few days of sunshine during the year that, when the sun does shine clear, every child has the right to obtain his full quota and absorb it in the system and blood.

The National Baby Week Council, which is holding its eleventh anniversary during the first week of July this year, is making the subject of sunlight one of its main "planks" for this campaign. In the past the Council has always felt that, no matter how energetic was the activity of the individual, concerted action during one specific period of the year focussed public attention and opinion on the subjects for special propaganda.

It is not in the province of the Council to intrude into the domestic affairs of the home. Far less does it want to butt in on party politics. But by being non-party and non-sectarian, and by demonstrating practical common sense, it has pointed the way to the general community to make representation for themselves.

Among the other special features of this year's campaign is the subject of dental clinics and the environment of the toddler. The care of the milk teeth is very important, and much serious damage is done to the health of the toddler by the ignorance or carelessness of the mother. This is a subject where individual education is of the greatest need, and the National Baby Week Council hopes that by extensive use of leaflets, lectures and films the salient points for prevention and remedy will become the knowledge, not of the few, but of the masses.

The question of environment for the child between the ages of babyhood and five years is also of very supreme importance. These few years form a gap between the very special care of the mother to the child who demands her every attention, and the time when the child is of age to be under the watchful eye of the daily pedagogue. These years are often the foundation of all future character; and yet, in the home life of the great cities as well as in the more rural parts, they are left to the free will of the child who follows his own choice either in the back streets or in the country lanes.

The Providence that guards the lives of the hedgerows also cherishes the flotsam and jetsam of babyhood. The Council does not

wish to interfere with the rights and privileges of parenthood, but it does want to stimulate public opinion about the kinds of homes that are provided for the mothers and babies of our country. The facilities for proper environment should be obtainable, open spaces with verdure and light, sanitary homes and hygienic conditions, smokeless air and clean milk; these with other welfare topics form part of the scheme of attack of the National Baby Week Council against the enemy of childhood, and to this end the co-operation of all baby-lovers is invited. All information about leaflets, films, and useful literature can be obtained from their offices at 117 Piccadilly, London, W.1, whether for use in this country or for special use overseas. Remember the slogan, Save the Babies.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

Huddersfield and District Blind Society.—We have received the 68th annual report of the Huddersfield Blind Society. The total number of blind people registered was 228. The home workers' section—one of the most important of the Society's activities—was successfully carried on during the year. 1,300 visits were made and relief to necessitous blind persons amounting to £594 was disbursed. A legacy of £252 was received during the period under review.

* * * *

North-Western Counties Association for the Blind.—Steady development of all blind welfare service is reported from this Association, which notes the increase of new blind cases, numbering 256. Subscriptions and donations to the value of £14 were received, and grants from the Ministry of Health totalled £333. Pensions to the value of £143 were distributed, whilst grants expended for administrative purposes totalled £50. The resignation of the Secretary, Miss M. Comber, is announced, and also of the Chairman, Mr. B. D. Turner. Miss I. V. Burges has accepted the position of Secretary.

* * * *

Staffordshire Association for the Blind.—Steady development in work for the blind in the county is indicated in the eighth annual report of this Association. The total number of blind persons in the Administrative County area is given as 630, whilst there are in addition 733 cases in the County Borough area. During the year 1,013 visits have been paid, £139 was distributed to 47 necessitous cases, and Christmas gifts to the value of £36 were given. Grants totalling £573 were received, in addition to a Gardner Trust grant for special cases of £17 18s.

* * * *

Belfast Association for the Employment of the Industrious Blind.—We learn that during the year 139 blind persons and five deaf and dumb persons were benefited by this Association. Wages to the amount of £4,474 and augmentation wages, etc., totalling £3,349 were distributed, making the payments to the blind during the period under review £7,823. The sales for the twelve months were £28,805, compared with £29,635 for the year 1925, a decrease of £830. It is gratifying to report that the sales relatively remained the same as in the previous year, notwithstanding the depressed state of trade generally and the effect of the coal strike.

* * * *

Mission to the Outdoor Blind for Glasgow and the West of Scotland.—In their 67th annual report the Directors of this Institution state that the past year has been one of acute distress among the blind. Although contributions have been fairly well maintained—a sum of £3,264 having been received in subscriptions and donations—£3,480 was spent in direct benevolence among the sightless. The total number of blind persons on the register for the area covered by the Mission at the end of the year was 1,517 males and 1,335 females—a total increase of 299 cases as compared with the previous year. A number of blind persons were regularly employed in transcribing books into Braille for the Mission libraries. The sum of £664 was distributed for coal during the winter months, and an additional fifty wireless sets were installed in the houses of invalids or those confined to their homes.

A scheme of assistance to home workers, whereby approved workers who earn, in the case of men, 16s. per week and, in the case of women, 8s. per week, will have their earnings augmented by at least 5s. per week, has been initiated by the directors. The scheme, which depends upon grants from the Scottish Board of Health, will, in the initial stages, assist about 50 blind persons engaged in piano-tuning, music teaching, tea trading, and other occupations.

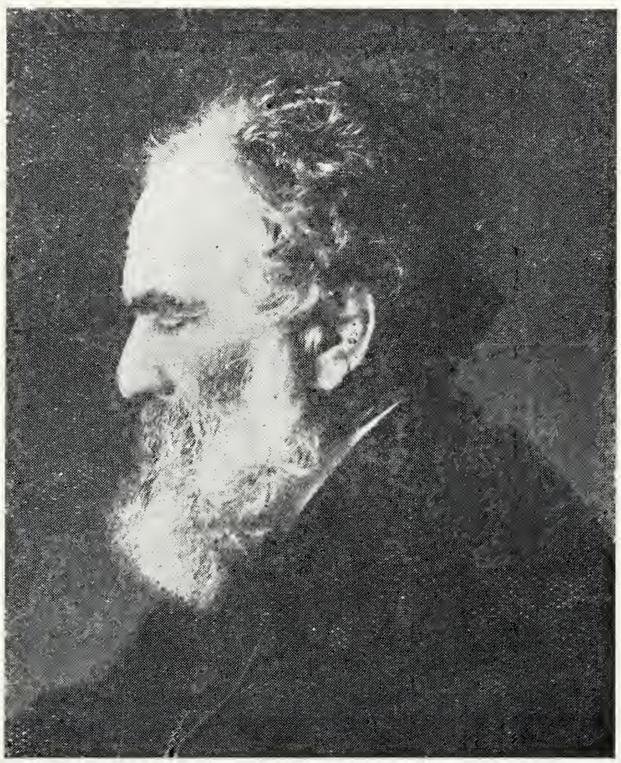
PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

HENRY MARTYN TAYLOR, J.P., M.A., F.R.S., F.R.A.S., F.C.T.B.

A GLANCE at the catalogue of books and apparatus now provided for the blind may well occasion some little pride and great satisfaction. The range of books and periodicals steadily increases, and the study of almost any subject is now within the reach of the sightless. Of special importance to the blind student are the embossed maps and plans which greatly facilitate the study of various sciences. Such facilities have now become a matter of course in the blind world; but we must never forget the debt we owe to those who originated these aids to learning.

Among these Mr. H. M. Taylor stands in the first rank of pioneers. He it was who devised means of teaching the blind perspective drawing, and of making models of geometrical figures in paper; above all, he introduced the system of embossed maps which has been most successfully applied and holds its own to-day.



MR. H. M. TAYLOR, J.P., M.A., F.R.S., F.R.A.S., F.C.T.B.

Henry Martyn Taylor, J.P., M.A., F.R.S., F.R.A.S., F.C.T.B., was born at Bristol on June 6th, 1842. At the age of five years he entered the Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth at Wakefield, of which school his father, the Rev. James Taylor, M.A. (later D.D.), had just been appointed Headmaster. In 1861 he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, whence in January, 1865, he graduated as Third Wrangler and obtained the second Smith's Prize. The late Lord Rayleigh was Senior Wrangler and first Smith's Prizeman. The late Mr. Justice Bray and the late Lord Alverstone were in the same Tripos list. In 1866 he was elected a Fellow of his College, and became Vice-Principal of the Royal School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at South Kensington, where he had among his pupils the late Sir Philip Watts, K.C.B., F.R.S., and the late Sir William White, K.C.B., F.R.S. He was during these years called to the Bar, but never practised. In 1869 Mr. Taylor was recalled to the College to be a Lecturer in Mathematics, and served the College in this office for twenty-five years, during ten of which (1874-1884) he was also Tutor. He took his share in the examinations of the College, and examined five times for the Mathematical Tripos. He served on many University Syndicates and held the office of Proctor.

His sight, although he had always been short-sighted and markedly colour-blind to red and green, was clear and keen until May, 1894.

The late Lord Rayleigh, while Cavendish Professor of Experimental Physics at Cambridge, induced Mr. Taylor to make a series of experiments with the Colour-Top. In these experiments the Colour-Top was used to obtain a match between two colours, each of which was formed by the blending of two or more different colours. The results of these experiments were published by Lord Rayleigh in a paper read to the British Association at York. Some of the matches made by Mr. Taylor were so startling to the normal eye that they were received with some incredulity. It was a great comfort to him when Lord Rayleigh was able to assure the British Association that these matches were quite as consistent as those made by the average normal sighted person.

In May, 1894, Mr. Taylor's sight began to fail rapidly. and from the summer of that year he was unable to see to read or write, and subsequently became totally blind. With true courage he determined to give up none of his occupations unless he was compelled to do so. He was at the time engaged upon an edition of Euclid which he had undertaken for the University Press. This, with the help of friends, he completed. The fact that the last part of Euclid deals with the geometry of space made this a peculiarly difficult task. No doubt, by overcoming these difficulties after he had lost his sight, he was led at a later period to consider the feasibility of teaching the blind the principles of geometrical perspective. He also continued from time to time to write mathematical papers, one of which, " On a method of Plotting out on a Chart the Great Circle Route between any two points," attracted some attention at the Liverpool meeting of the British Association in 1896.

The year 1894 thus marked the end of Mr. Taylor's services as Lecturer in Trinity College. He was now at leisure to devote himself to his two great interests—the service of the blind, and public work in the University and the town. He continued for many years to serve on the Council of his College and on University Syndicates. He had already for some years before represented the University on the Cambridge Borough Council, and was now elected one of the University aldermen—a position which he held till 1925. He served the office of Mayor in 1900-1901, and was placed permanently on the Commission of Peace for the Borough in 1903. But it was in the service of the blind that his most remarkable and characteristic work was accomplished.

As a member of the British Braille Committee from 1902 to 1905 he rendered most important service in the revision of Braille and in securing the adoption of Grades I and II by the English-speaking blind throughout the Empire. In 1903 he joined the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind (then the British and Foreign Blind Association), and through his influence Charles Smith's Elementary Algebra was published by that body in Braille. For some years he was Chairman of the Book Committee of the Institute.

In consequence of the dearth of embossed books dealing with the sciences, Mr. Taylor, in the autumn of 1907, raised a fund called " The Embossed Scientific Book Fund " with a view to the publication in Braille of books on science at prices within the range of the blind. In its initial stages he, himself, wrote out the first Braille copy of many such works which were then put into the hands of the stereotyper. To-day such works are printed off from the metal plates, and include such subjects as Sound and Music, Trigonometry, Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism, Hydrostatics, Chemistry, Physiology, Botany, Psychology and other scientific subjects.

The Fund is now established on a permanent basis. The Royal Society has accepted the office of Trustees of the Fund, and upwards of 12,000 volumes published with its assistance have already been sold.

At the first examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind in 1908, Mr. Taylor was an examiner, and in 1911 he was elected a Fellow of the College. Readers of " Progress " will remember his contributions and his geometrical figures in that paper ; his efforts to supply the blind with embossed maps have been completely successful.

Since 1925 the growing infirmities of age have compelled Mr. Taylor to give up all the work at which he has so long laboured with unremitting courage and incalculable benefit to those whom he aimed at serving. He is no longer able either to read or write Braille, but he may have the satisfaction of looking back on a life spent in service and in pioneer work which has smoothed the path of learning for countless sighted students.

EDINBURGH HOME FOR BLIND WOMEN

AT the annual meeting of the Royal Blind Asylum and School in Edinburgh recently the Rev. Dr. Thomas Burns, Chairman of Directors, in moving a resolution emphasising the necessity for a home for blinded women, and expressing the hope that there would be a generous response to the appeal for subscriptions which is to be lodged shortly, said they had secured a suitable site at Alfred Place, Newington, Edinburgh. The cost of the building when completed would be about £16,000.

The women are at present accommodated with the children at the West Craigmillar branch of the Institution.

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)



IT will already have been concluded that in my opinion it would be difficult, if not quite impossible, to exaggerate the importance of for ever being on the *qui vive* where costs of production are concerned. It is vital to the safe conduct of every business, and this is the testimony of every man of affairs whose views command universal respect. That nearly 75 per cent. of the waste in production is due to bad management was the contention of Mr. Edward A. Filene, an eminent Boston, U.S.A., business man, speaking at a gathering in London recently. It was customary, he said, for the blame for bad business to be put on labour. Every business man who was dissatisfied with the costs of production should examine carefully the management side of his business. Mr. Seebohm Rowntree says it is vitally important in this country that the efficiency of our industrial methods should be raised to the highest possible point. It was also important that wages should be raised, because higher wages meant a higher purchasing power.

In the last article I entered upon a brief discussion of the conditions by which these costs are adversely influenced; it is not claimed, however, that this examination is in any sense exhaustive, for there are many important contributory factors which are altogether ignored, or only referred to in quite a casual manner—for example, such aspects of the problem as the purchase of the best raw material and the proper storage and preparation of the same, the many causes of waste, and a closer observation on the weight of the finished product, etc. All the items here enumerated play an important part in influencing the cost of production in workshops for the blind. I am not unmindful, either, of the supervision charges which are invariably heavy, though it would be difficult to see how they can be seriously curtailed under existing conditions. Nevertheless, the matter is one which should be periodically examined in order that the management may be assured that the industry is not being made to carry burdens that cannot be justified.

It would appear that the losses which are being sustained are incurred largely by the complicated processes of marketing the finished products, and it is probably this aspect of the business to which far closer attention should be paid.

Commercial men are often known to complain of the methods employed by our trading agencies; they fear that subscriptions are used to subsidise business, and that legitimate competition is thereby strained to breaking-point by those concerns which need not seriously consider the selling prices of the goods they have to offer because they are relying upon a substantial subscription list or a Government grant to relieve them of financial embarrassments.

It is most unfortunate that there should be even a semblance of truth in these suggestions; but when one examines the present situation with the sole desire of discovering the actual facts, the results are, to say the least of it, very disconcerting. In the years 1924-5, a number of trading institutions received in Government grants the sum of £29,000. During the same period these said institutions lost by trading £38,000. Now, it may be that a perfectly legitimate explanation can be given for this state of things, but so far it has not been seriously attempted.

If evidence resulting from a properly conducted and comprehensive enquiry should make it clear that such losses are inevitable, then we must perforce immediately take such steps as are necessary to discover more suitable occupations for the blind, and we must strive more zealously than heretofore to make more practical use of the ordinary avenues of industry for the fulfilment of our purposes. Later, I propose to deal with this aspect of the problem more thoroughly; but in the meantime one cannot but regret the seeming apathy which is evinced towards the development of a system of trading which it seems to me is neither intelligible nor yet defensible.

If it be true, as I have stated, that there are some phases of our work that cannot be said to be entirely satisfactory, there is, nevertheless, much in the present situation for which one ought to be intensely grateful; for, so far as

the blind worker is concerned, it is perfectly true to say that the standard of remuneration by which his services are recognised was never better than it is to-day. Economic earnings (save in a few places) are distinctly improving, whilst the principle by which wages are augmented has now become an established condition of our social system recognised by all the employment agencies.

It must not be inferred from these observations that I contend that in consequence of this appreciable progress one should be entirely satisfied simply to maintain the *status quo*. Such a conception would be ludicrous; for, though finality must and will be reached in the near future in the matter of providing grants of money for the purposes of augmenting wages, there should be no artificial barriers set up by employment agencies to prevent non-seeing workers earning unlimited wages by manufacturing saleable commodities. Indeed, the ideal for which we should strive is surely to evolve, adapt or appropriate to ourselves such occupations as may be practised in free competition with others, such pursuits as will yield adequate remuneration, thereby obviating subsidies or disability allowances. That conception is impracticable for the moment, and it will continue to be impracticable so long as we set our hearts and minds upon the acquisition of subsidies rather than inculcating a spirit of self-reliance and efficiency in production. These limitations will continue so long as we are prepared to regard present occupations as representing the final stages in our industrial development.

Though one is sometimes tempted to assume an attitude of impatience and even to manifest downright hostility towards the scheme of things when it is observed how slowly the wheels of progress appear to move, yet, if we could but take a little time to reflect upon the changes that have taken place during our own short experiences, I venture to think we would find more reason for congratulation than otherwise.

I am told by a correspondent that I am missing a magnificent opportunity in refraining to advocate what is known as a "living wage" for all blind workers. I am most certainly desirous of seeing every such worker enjoying a standard of life such as to place him well above the poverty-line. Yes, and I would rejoice to see him become possessed of very much more than that standard; but wages are determined by economic considerations, not by wishes or good intentions. Such wages as he is able to earn constitute his measure of service to the community, and all additions made to this remuneration are, in point of fact, subtracted from the labour values of others who are also striving to reach a higher standard of life.

If it be true that labour used in its all-inclusive sense is the "source of all wealth," then the only scientific claim we possess to the standard of which my correspondent writes is determined by that general degree of efficiency which we bring to the performance of our daily tasks.

Pope Leo XIII, defining a living wage, stated that it meant "sufficient to support a frugal and steady workman." "For," said the Pope, "if the workman, compelled by his needs or influenced by fear of worse evils, agrees to harder terms (which he must unwillingly accept because the master so insists), he becomes the victim of force that justice condemns."

Though the foregoing definition leaves much to be desired, it will be obvious to most thinking people that the effort must be made to create the things that are deemed to be essential; and only in proportion to the value of the exertion we make can we hope to wrest from nature the material things that are necessary for human happiness.

(*To be continued.*)

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

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Pliny.	Letters (1st Series); trans. by J. B. Firth ..	3
	ENGLISH LITERATURE.	
Smith, L. P.	The English Language	2
Tolkien, J. R. R., and Gordon, E. V. (Ed. by).	Sir Gawain and The Green Knight	5
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Trevelyan, G. M.	History of England	14
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COLLEGE AND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND

SCHOOL TEACHERS' EXAMINATION, 1927



THE Nineteenth Examination for the School Teachers' Certificate of the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind was held on May 26th and 27th, 1927, at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W.3.

The examiners were Mr. W. M. Stone (Chairman), Mr. A. R. Bannister, Mr. E. Evans, Miss J. I. Falconer (Secretary), Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Miss E. M. Jones, Mr. J. M. Ritchie.

Fourteen candidates entered, ten women and four men. Four were re-entrants from last year. Ten have gained the Certificate. Four candidates were of outstanding merit and gained over 80 per cent. of marks.

The Board of Examiners report as follows :

BRAILLE, PRACTICAL
(4 Honours, 4 Passes, 2 Failures)

The reading was done better than the dictation. Punctuation and the practical application of the rules of Grade II were weak. One candidate was of outstanding merit, and gained full marks.

BRAILLE, THEORETICAL
(6 Honours, 3 Passes, 2 Failures)

The subject was well studied, and showed conciseness and clarity on the whole.

ARITHMETIC
(6 Honours, 3 Passes, 4 Failures)

A higher standard of passes was attained in this examination this year.

The methods of working were more involved than the examples demanded. Several candidates were not familiar with the Taylor frame, and apparently had not troubled to practise sufficiently.

PRACTICE OF TEACHING
(4 Honours, 6 Passes, 0 Failures)

The candidates who gained honours showed knowledge of the special needs of the pupils. The standard was altogether higher than last year. The lessons by the other candidates were fairly good, but were in no way specially adapted for a class of blind children.

THEORY OF EDUCATION
(3 Honours, 7 Passes, 1 Failure)

Some of the papers displayed the results of careful reading and independent thought. The Honours candidates did exceptionally good papers.

INFANT HANDWORK
(2 Honours, 1 Pass)

Specimens were simple but well graded, and within the scope of the children. Theoretical questions were thoughtfully answered, and showed knowledge of modern educational methods. The weakest part was the practical test.

PHYSICAL TRAINING
(2 Passes, 3 Failures)

The same result was shown as in previous years. The candidates showed a want of knowledge of fundamental principles. The schemes were very poor, and the lessons indifferently given.

HAND KNITTING
(1 Honour)

In the practical test, graded specimens and scheme were excellent; the teaching bright and thorough.

TYPEWRITING
(2 Passes)

Fairly good papers, but of no special merit.

CHAIR-CANING
(2 Honours, 1 Pass, 1 Failure)

This subject shows decided improvement in practical and theoretical work.

The Arthur Pearson Prize was awarded to Miss N. Siddle, School for the Blind, Leeds ; Miss M. E. B. Cave, East Anglian School for the Blind, Gorleston-on-Sea, was *proxime accessit*.

The following is a list of the successful candidates ; the number of subjects in which Honours were obtained is indicated after each name :—

Cave, Miss M. E. B. (5)	Thomas, Mr. D. S. (5)
Glen, Miss J. B. (1)	Tirbutt, Miss S. J. (2)
Matthews, Mrs. C. J. (2)	Vaughan, Mr. U. (2)
Siddle, Miss N. (6)	Sutcliffe, Mr. T. (3)
Sutton, Miss E. M. (4)	Cockings, Mr. J. P. (1)

HOME TEACHERS' EXAMINATION, 1927

The Fifth Examination for the Home Teachers' Certificate was held simultaneously at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage,

London, the School for the Blind, Wavertree, Liverpool, and the School for the Blind, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 24th, 25th and 26th, 1927.

The Board of Examiners, consisting of Mr. W. M. Stone (Chairman), Mr. A. R. Bannister, Mr. R. G. Cowley (Secretary), Mr. E. Evans, Miss J. I. Falconer, Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Miss E. M. Jones, Mr. J. M. Ritchie, Mr. A. Siddall, Mr. S. E. Stevens, Mr. W. H. Tate, were assisted by the following co-opted Examiners and Invigilators :—Miss Freshney, Mr. Ness, Mr. Jones, Mr. Symes, Miss Radford, Mr. Osborn, Mr. Gadsby, Miss Bulbeck, Mrs. Dalby, Mr. Macaulay, Miss Thomas, Miss Lyon, Mr. Lockhead, Miss Dixon, Miss Morris, Miss Russell.

One hundred and twenty-six candidates presented themselves, and thirty-five of these were re-entrants.

Seventy-four certificates were granted, and twenty-seven of these were in respect of re-entrants. Of the successful candidates, fifteen were blind, twelve partially blind and forty-seven sighted.

The following observations are taken from the report of the Board of Examiners and should prove of interest to our readers :—

Some candidates showed that they had definitely worked hard to prepare themselves. The standard of work steadily improves. The Examiners are impressed by the fact that candidates coming from areas where classes of instruction have been held were almost uniformly successful in their work.

BRAILLE

(38 Honours, 40 Passes, 24 Failures)

The majority of the failures were due, to a very great extent, to lack of knowledge of punctuation, irregular spacing, to an utter disregard of the rules governing the employment of certain contractions, and, in a few cases only, to a very hazy knowledge of the Braille Alphabet. The reading was very slow.

MOON

(19 Honours, 63 Passes, 19 Failures)

The standard reached was about the same as last year, but on the whole a much better speed was attained.

PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE, PRACTICAL

(21 Honours, 58 Passes, 18 Failures)

The number of successes was similar to last year, but twenty-one obtained Honours compared with seven in 1926. The Examiners were much impressed by the need for improvement in methods of teaching. A large number of the candidates had very little knowledge of how to set about giving a first lesson. Much good would result from a short course on methods of teaching. Some candidates had obviously acquired their knowledge of the Manual Alphabet from the text book, and were not fluent. It was apparent that few of them had had to use the Alphabet in actual practice. There was a lack of crispness, and decided smudging or slurring.

PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE, THEORETICAL

(17 Honours, 54 Passes, 27 Failures)

Though the paper set was slightly easier than last year's test, the percentage of failures was much higher, but the percentage of Honours also was higher. Some papers were remarkably full and exact. In Case Work the answers to the *viva voce* test were good, and generally showed adaptability and common-sense.

CHAIR-CANING

(24 Honours, 39 Passes, 18 Failures)

The exercises generally were better than those of last year. There were less failures, and double the number of Honours gained.

The four-way seat test appeared to be quite new to some candidates, and they had difficulty in adapting themselves to an unexpected task.

Some answers to the question which required candidates to estimate costs and quantities of cane required for 12 chairs revealed many instances of utter guess-work. Quantities ranged from 1½ to 6 lbs., and prices from 6/- to 20/-

Many candidates did not bring their own tools, contrary to the Examiners' advice. Some candidates lost marks owing to their being unaccustomed to the use of the tools they had borrowed.

RUSH SEATING

(11 Honours, 24 Passes, 7 Failures)

The standard reached was a strict improvement on last year, when the general level obtained was good. It was evident that most candidates had received some efficient instruction in the subject.

HAND KNITTING

(18 Honours, 22 Passes, 5 Failures)

The exercises were well done on the whole, and the results were rather better than those obtained last year.

PULP CANE WORK

(11 Honours, 32 Passes, 7 Failures)

Both the paper and practical work were very well done, and the exercises were distinctly better than in 1926.

NETTING

(1 Honour, 0 Passes, 10 Failures)

The two tests set were of the simplest character. The results were disappointing. Only one candidate showed a real practical knowledge of the subject. Several of the attempts were ludicrous.

STRAW BAG MAKING AND RAFFIA WORK

(3 Honours, 17 Passes, 7 Failures)

STRING BAG MAKING AND RAFFIA WORK

(2 Honours, 12 Passes, 6 Failures)

These results were not so good as those of 1926.

Candidates would do better if more time was given to these tests, and the time definitely divided between the two subjects. Some had obviously spent too long over the String Bag Making and not left enough time for Raffia Work.

RUG MAKING

(17 Honours, 58 Passes, 14 Failures)

This simple and popular pastime occupation again was well done, though the need for instruction is still evident.

TYPEWRITING

(7 Honours, 11 Passes, 5 Failures)

BRAILLE MUSIC

(7 Honours, 3 Passes, 0 Failures)

CIRCULAR MACHINE KNITTING

(1 Honour, 2 Passes, 0 Failures)

The Arthur Pearson Prize was awarded to Miss E. Fisher, Supervisor of Home Teachers, Royal Institution for the Blind, Birmingham ; Miss F. M. Smallwood, also of the Birmingham Institution, was *proxime accessit.*

The following is a list of the successful candidates ; the number of subjects in which Honours were obtained is indicated after each name :—

Agnew, Miss B. (5)
Alexander, Mr. H. (3)
Alleyne, Miss F. M.
Bailey, Miss W. E. B. (5)
Battison, Miss B. M. (2)
Beattie, Miss A.
Blaby, Miss E. C. M. (3)
Buscall, Miss E. M. (4)
Carss, Miss I. (2)
Carter, Miss J. D. (2)
Cashmore, Mr. E. (3)
Chalker, Miss D. E. L. (3)
Clark, Miss D. M. G. (2)
Connolly, Miss E. M.
Dey, Miss A. (2)
Diggle, Miss G. (1)
Downey, Miss G. J. (1)
Edwards, Miss G. M. (1)
Ellis, Miss L. (2)
Evans, Miss H. F. (5)
Farrell, Miss A. (2)
Fisher, Miss E. (8)
Flemming, Miss A.N.L. (3)
Gandy, Mr. W. (2)
Grey, Miss A. H. E. (4)
Goad, Miss M.
Goodered, Mrs. G.
Hanson, Miss E. (4)
Harris, Mr. E. C. (1)
Hartland, Mrs. M. B. (5)
Heigh, Miss J. (3)
Humphreys, Miss G.
Hilton, Miss S. N. (4)
Hovey, Miss D. H. (1)
Irvine, Miss C. (3)
Jackson, Miss L. E. (5)
James, Miss E. N.
Kingston, Miss H. L. (6)
Kirk, Miss M. N. (3)
Kyrke-Penson, Miss V. (3)
Langmaid, Miss M. (3)
Lee, Miss F. M. (3)
Lewis, Miss D.
Nalder, Miss R. M. (3)
Parkes, Miss E. M. (4)
Powell, Miss E. M. (5)
Reed, Miss N. (1)
Ritchie, Mr. D. M. (4)
Robertson, Miss C. (2)
Ross, Miss L. E. (2)
Rutledge, Miss K. J. (3)
Schofield, Miss E. (2)
Sear, Mrs. O. (3)
Sharples, Miss A. A. (2)
Smallwood, Miss F. M. (5)
Smith, Miss G. (5)
Smythe, Mr. A. C.
Spooner, Miss D. R. (3)
Stiven, Miss W. A. (1)
Tate, Miss E. (5)
Thorp, Miss A. (1)
Wade, Miss Z. J.
Warburton, Mr. T. (3)
Watt, Miss A. (4)
Wells, Mrs. M. (1)
Westwood, Mr. W. O. (3)
Wilkinson, Mrs. A. M. (1)
Wright, Miss L. W. (4)
Wright, Miss N. (3)
Wrigley, Mrs. L.
Hiskett, Mrs. A. E. (3)
Morgan, Miss F. M. (6)
Mackenzie, Mr. D. (3)
Sutherland, Mr. V. (3)

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

THE month of May opened with the concert which is annually held at St. Albans in lieu of "Geranium Day." The Honorary Secretary of the "Helpers of the Blind," Miss Olga Dickson, and the members of the Circle had worked with their customary enthusiasm, and a large audience attended at the County Theatre. The artistes, who gave their services, were Miss Carrie Tubb, Madame Ivy Lush, M. Bratza, Mr. Kenneth Ellis, and M. Youvanovitch, together with Mr. Matthews as accompanist and Mr. Wilden Knight of the G.L.F. Blind Concert Party. During the interval Mr. E. W. Hitchcock expressed the thanks of the Circle and Mr. Preece spoke on behalf of the Fund. Sir Edgar Wigram, Bart. (Mayor of St. Albans), presented to Miss Carrie Tubb some beautiful flowers, and thanked her, together with the other artistes, on behalf of the people of St. Albans for the great treat provided in the programme that evening.

New Circles were formed at Ickenham on May 3rd, and at Hayes, Middlesex, on May 4th. On both occasions a musical programme was provided by the blind artistes, and each proved the enthusiasm of the new members by a good contribution on "Geranium Day."

The blind artistes also visited both Farnborough and Surbiton on "Geranium Night," and provided the entertainment at the annual general meeting of the Victoria (A. and N.) Athletic Association.

Another Circle event in preparation for "Geranium Day" was the whist drive organised by Ruislip H.O.B., where, at the request of Miss Massey (the Honorary Secretary), Miss Johnston and Mr. Osborn spoke of the work of the Greater London Fund and made an appeal for support of its work.

Other "Geranium Day" appeals were made by Miss Edwards on the 3rd at Edmonton and by Mr. Williams at Kensal Rise. Mr. Preece spoke at the annual "Helpers of the Blind" and Geranium Meeting at Chiswick on May 5th, when Colonel Grant Morden, M.P., President of the Circle, was good enough to spare time from the Trades Disputes Debate to preside. A musical programme was provided by the G.L.F. Concert Party.

Mr. Preece also spoke at the annual recital by pupils of Miss Christine Edwards, when a silver collection was made on behalf of the Fund, and addressed three Masonic lodges.

"Geranium Day," held on two consecutive days this year, was more than usually busy. Details as to the amount collected are not yet complete, and it is proposed to give an account of this in our next issue.

The month closed with the Dramatic Schools' Matinée, organised by the G.L.F. Theatrical Committee under the chairmanship of Dame Madge Kendal. Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Patron of the Fund, graciously honoured the performance by her presence this year, and was received by Captain Sir Beachcroft and Lady Towse, General Sir Bindon and Lady Blood, and Lady Arthur, together with Dame Madge. Her Royal Highness was attended by the Marchioness of Titchfield.

The Kingsway Theatre was kindly lent by Mr. Simon Ord, and the programme was an enjoyable one. Although the audience was not so large as in previous years, they gave generously to Lady Alexander and her helpers, and a substantial profit has accrued to the Fund.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to June 11th, 788 wireless sets and 1,033 pairs of headphones have been distributed among the blind, the local associations acting as distributing centres.

As a result of the appeal, 360 wireless sets and 179 pairs of headphones have been received.

Donations from private sources and grants from the National Institute for the Blind have enabled the fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and distributed.

BRIGHTON COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL

IN the recent Brighton Competitive Festival in the section for 25-voice Boys' Choirs, the first prize was won by the choir of the School for the Blind, Brighton, and also the second prize in the section for 45-voice Choirs (Elementary Schools), the first prize in this class being taken by St. John's School Choir (sighted). All three choirs were trained by Mr. Leonard A. Marsh, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., Music Master, School for the Blind, Brighton, and we offer him and his pupils our very hearty congratulations.

In addition to this, the following pupils of the Brighton School for the Blind have been successful candidates in the last Associated Board Examinations :—

Primary, with distinction—Frederick House.

Elementary, with distinction—Ronald Finch.

Elementary, with honourable mention—Geoffrey Oldring, George Biggs, Sidney Millard.

BIRMINGHAM COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL

NOT only at Birmingham, but also in the Midlands, the blind are keeping the flag flying, for Mr. Platt has added the following successes to his many splendid triumphs in the past. The Birmingham Institution's Children's Choir entered for two events—the first was to defend a banner previously won, and, there being no other competitor, the choir sang merely for adjudication. Dr. Whittaker, Lecturer in Music at the Armstrong College, Newcastle, spoke very highly of the rendering of both the set pieces, awarding 90 marks out of a possible 100 for each. The second event was the test for the Mary Wakefield Shield. In this "honours class" the children's choir was allotted second place (with Mr. Stanley Roper, B.A., Mus. B., Organist of St. James's Chapel Royal, as judge), the first being given to St. Paul's College Roman Catholic Choir. Mr. Platt also entered four of his pupils for the various piano classes, all qualifying for a certificate, Arthur Clarke, in the class for children from 14 to 16, coming out second in the final test. We are very glad to have the opportunity of heartily congratulating Mr. Platt once more upon his splendid enterprise, and with his achievements at Birmingham as a teacher and choir-trainer, and those of Mr. Marsh at Brighton, the capacity of the blind to hold their own in musical matters is being amply vindicated.

ANNUAL SISTERHOOD MEETING



A POPULAR feature of the Greater London Fund's activities was emphasised on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 15th, when the Annual Sisterhood Social took place for the fifth time in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind.

Never before had so large a Sisterhood meeting gathered together to listen to the words of encouragement and gratitude expressed by Miss Edwards, Sisterhood Appeal Organiser, and Messrs. H. C. Preece and E. H. Williams, Joint Organising Secretaries of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, and to enjoy the excellent concert which is always provided on these occasions entirely by blind artistes.

Proceedings opened with a short organ recital by Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., Musical Director of the National Institute for the Blind, whose interpretation of two works of Hollins: "Spring Song" and "Overture in C," as well as of Gylmant's "Grand Choeur," greatly delighted the vast audience. In the unavoidable absence of Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., Mr. H. C. Preece welcomed those present and thanked them in Sir Beachcroft's name for all they were doing on behalf of the Fund. There followed a song, "Beyond the Dawn," rendered by Mr. Thomas Watson. This was greatly applauded, as was the ever-popular "Jerusalem" which was given as an encore.

Miss Edwards then addressed the meeting as follows:—

"I have been looking forward to this Fifth Annual Sisterhood gathering, when once again we meet face to face representatives of the Sisterhoods and kindred societies who have, throughout the year, and especially on Geranium Day, rendered such splendid service to the Greater London Fund for the Blind. I am glad that so many are able to be present this afternoon. Other friends, who are unable to be present, send their regrets and wish us all a happy time together.

"And now a few words with regard to the help given by the Sisterhoods during the past year:—

"You will be pleased to hear that Geranium Day depôt returns to date amount to no less than £370 6s. 1d., and contents of collecting boxes, results from concerts, etc., total £125 10s. 2d. So that the Sisterhoods have already beaten the Geranium return for last year, the depôts then totalling £344. This constitutes an increase of £26, and we have still one or two more depôt returns to add a little later in the year. In addition, help was given by members in other districts. As a result of this year's efforts, therefore, upwards of £500 has been brought into the funds.

"Since 1923 the Sisterhoods and kindred societies depôt returns total £1,153 17s. 2d., and proceeds from collecting boxes, concerts, etc., £616 9s. 10d. With the additional help given to depôts not run by the Sisterhoods on consecutive Geranium Days, the Sisterhood returns total upwards of £2,000. We are indeed more than grateful to every women's organisation represented here this afternoon. We thank you all for this splendid amount, and may it act as a spur to greater endeavour in the future. For Service spells Love, and the power and energy of Love bring brightness into the lives of the 7,500 civilian blind of Greater London who live in the Shadows."

After Miss Edwards' address, two recitations "Only Seven" and "Should a Woman Tell," were excellently rendered by Miss Ruth Baugh. Miss Isabella Vass, L.R.A.M., who contributed "Come unto Him," from Handel's "Messiah," and "The Silver Chord," by Hollins, has a powerful voice of rare charm.

Mr. Williams then addressed the meeting. He congratulated those present on all they had accomplished on behalf of the blind. It seemed, he said, somewhat sordid to be obliged to interpret it in terms of money. It was money that was needed to conduct the propaganda which would give members of the blind community their chances in life. But it was the qualities of warmth and sympathy which they put into that work which was of so high a value. In working for the blind on Flag-days and otherwise, they awakened popular interest in the cause and helped to provide the future legislation which was bound to improve their position still further. Mr. Williams recapitulated the chief forms by which the blind were being "helped to help themselves." Their position to-day was, he said, better than it had been throughout the past history of the world, and with their help it would become still better in the future.

Mr. Watson contributed two more songs: "The Waggoner" and "Absent," and

Mr. Delmage gave one of his popular recitals, including "Wolsey's Farewell Address" from "King Henry VIII," and a modern Scottish story.

Mr. H. C. Preece then gave an address which he punctuated by several humorous tales illustrating the misconceptions still prevalent in the minds of the public concerning the blind. Once more he thanked the ladies present for their generous help on the 13th and 14th May—"the ladies, one and all, those with Eton crops and those with shingles, and also those with long hair who had turned out so nobly to gather 'bobs' for the blind on Geranium Day." He recalled to their memories the poster which bore the words 'If you were blind.' It was the fact that they had a realisation of what blindness must mean that made them so successful in their efforts to help the sightless.

After Mr. Preece's address, Miss Vass delighted the audience by singing "The Road to the Isles" and "Comin' through the Rye," and Miss Ruth Baugh contributed another recitation called "Billy."

Guests, performers and G.L.F. officials then adjourned to do justice to an excellent tea provided in the restaurant of the National Institute for the Blind, and all agreed that the afternoon had been a complete success. E. G.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE AND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

THE following is an epitome of an agreement concluded last month between the National Institute for the Blind and the National Library for the Blind with reference to funds collected locally for national services :

1. The Institute and the Library have agreed that in all cases where agreements have been concluded between the Institute and local agencies, the local agency shall be requested to agree to a modification thereof in the sense that the Library shall be deemed to have been a party thereto as from 1st April, 1927, and thereupon the Library will be subject to the same restrictions as regards local collections as the Institute.

2. Neither the Institute nor the Library will henceforth enter into any such agreement unless the other is a party to it.

3. During 1927-8 all monies receivable by the Institute under such agreement up to 20 per cent. of the total collected will be paid into a joint account, the Library being entitled to one-fourth of such 20 per cent. (with a maximum of £4,000) and the Institute to the balance. The division in future years is to be agreed between the Institute and the Library and in default of agreement the matter is to go to arbitration.

4. The Institute will conduct negotiations on behalf of itself and the Library, but if so desired by the Institute or the Local Agency the Library will nominate a representative to take part in any negotiations.

"THE BRAILLE RADIO TIMES"

THE attention of our readers is again drawn to the *Braille Radio Times* which is proving of very great benefit to the blind throughout England and Wales. The National Institute, which publishes this periodical every Friday, has received many letters of appreciation, in which particular praise is given to the method in which the programmes of the various stations are presented. The programmes of all B.B.C. stations in England and Wales are given, in the same order (*i.e.*, beginning with London and ending with Swansea), on every day of the week, the programme of each station beginning on a new line, while the days are indicated by a star in the margin. Thus, the reader can run his finger down the left-hand margin of any page and find at once the programme of any station he desires. The subscription rates are 6s. 6d. per annum, 3s. 6d. for six months, and 2s. for three months, post free in all cases and payable in advance; or each issue can be purchased for 1d. at any newsagents, through whom regular orders can be booked.

In the list of Birthday Honours we read that Dr. Thomas Burns, D.D., T.D., J.P., F.R.S.E., F.C.T.B., of Lady Glenorchy's Church, Edinburgh, has been created a C.B.E. Dr. Burns is well known for his work in connection with the Craigmillar Royal Blind School and Newington Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, of which he is Chairman.

Blindustry is the name of a new monthly publication, published by the Incorporated Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, the first number of which has appeared this month. The paper largely advertises goods either actually made by blind workers, or otherwise obtainable through the Association.

SUPERVISION OF CHARITIES

THE report, issued by the Home Office Departmental Committee on the Supervision of Charities, arrives at the main conclusion that the institution of any universal system of supervision over Collecting Charities is not to be recommended.

In a preliminary review of the existing law and practice, the report gives details of the working of the War Charities and Blind Persons Acts, and points out that the societies which are refused registration or struck off the register under the two Acts consist of the so-called Charity which is fraudulent in its very inception and often originated by persons who have served terms of imprisonment for false pretences; the Charity founded by well-meaning enthusiasts who, from lack of experience or business capacity, quickly found the proper conduct of the organisation beyond their powers; and, between these two extremes, Charities which shaded off into one or the other of them.

The Committee recommend that the Charity Commissioners should be empowered to hold an enquiry into the affairs of any Collecting Charity which is represented to them by a "representing authority" as not carried on in good faith for charitable purposes, not properly administered, or not keeping proper accounts; and to wind up or remodel the Charity, or to take other necessary action if they find the allegation proved.

They support the raising of the minimum age for street collectors to 18, and recommend the institution of a system of licensing for door-to-door collections, collections in public places of entertainment and public houses, and boxes in shops and public houses.

The Committee calculate that the number of Charities with which they have to deal much exceeds the approximate total of 80,000 at which the number within their jurisdiction is estimated by the Charity Commissioners, and make it clear that universal supervision was a business of very considerable magnitude. They see no grounds for doubting that the great majority of Charities are managed not only honestly, but with reasonable prudence, and that such dishonesty as does exist is due mainly to the recurring operations of the few people either known or suspected to be fraudulent, whose gains in all probability amount only to a very small part of the vast sums which are given to charity. It is the Committee's considered opinion that the demand for supervision rests almost entirely upon these persons' activities.

The Committee state that the control of door-to-door collections can be justified on the same grounds as street collections, viz., to prevent speculation and to avoid annoyance and obstruction. The simplest method of supervising door-to-door collections appears to be framing regulations similar to those of street collections; but, in order to secure uniformity, they suggest that the regulations should be made not by the Police Authority, but by the Secretary of State, and should apply throughout the country.

BRAILLE BOOKS

SEVERAL congratulatory letters have been received recently by the National Institute relative to the nature of the books now being passed for publication in Braille. In recent lists, almost every type of literature has been represented, from the immortal classics of Ancient Greece and Rome to the latest "thriller." A very interesting item which will shortly be published in pocket form is probably the oldest story in the world, a relic from Ancient Egypt, reprinted by permission of Prof. Flinders Petrie, the famous Egyptologist.

Another book which will cause much interest when published is "The Elements of 'Radio Communication,'" by O. F. Brown. This is the very latest book on the subject in which nowadays the blind generally are so much interested, and will be issued as one of the series of books published with the help of the Embossed Scientific Books Funds, founded, as related elsewhere in this issue, by Mr. H. M. Taylor.

EXAMPLE is the school of mankind, and they will learn at no other.—BURKE.

THE winds and waves are always on the side of the ablest navigators.—GIBBON.

ALL that is human must retrograde if it do not advance.—GIBBON.

TIME as he grows old teaches many lessons. —ÆSCHYLUS.

SCOTTISH CONFERENCE OF THE BLIND

AT the annual conference of the Scottish National Federation of Institutions and Societies for the Blind, which opened at Inverness on June 9th, there was a long discussion on the Blind Persons Act of 1920. Mr. Adair Robb, Dumfries, gave an address in which he suggested amendments to the Act, with special reference to the unemployable blind. While progress had been made under the Act, he said that many of their fondest hopes had not been realised. The most pressing problem, that of the outdoor blind, had scarcely been touched. He suggested that the Federation might give careful consideration to the advisability of taking a lead in a demand for a Government inquiry into the working of the Act. Such a demand would not be premature, and need not delay the passing of an amended Bill. He also suggested that there should be some form of compulsory notification of blindness, and spoke of the importance of setting up research departments in Britain, as in America, to discover new channels of employment for blind persons.

Mr. James Balfour, Aberdeen, said that 99 per cent. of the population were unaware of the benefits that could be conferred on the blind community by a broad and sympathetic interpretation of the 1920 Act.

Mr. David Irvine, Lanarkshire, thought that notification of blindness to the medical officer of the district was a most essential thing, and should be incorporated in any amending Bill.

Mr. J. D. Macdiarmid, Aberdeen, the secretary, declared that there was much to be said in favour of a research department, but they should not imagine that the establishment of such a department was going to work wonders. " We have employment exchanges throughout the country looking for work for able-bodied, sighted men," he said, " and they have failed."

Mr. Joshua Brand, Dundee, declared that the Blind Persons Act had been attacked because of its permissive character, its critics declaring it should be of a compulsory nature. He was in disagreement with that view, because the moment they introduced the element of compulsion they excited opposition. The Act had achieved great good, and was accomplishing its work without impeding the springs of human kindness.

The whole question was remitted, after further discussion, to the Council of the Federation.

ADVICE TO BLIND PERSONS IN SCOTLAND

THE Scottish Board of Health have issued a pamphlet, prepared by the Scottish Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, indicating generally the provision made for the welfare of blind persons in Scotland. The Board are anxious that all persons afflicted or threatened with blindness should have a knowledge of the many ways in which blind persons can now be assisted. They concur in the opinion of the Advisory Committee that it is highly desirable that all those who come into contact with blind persons should be acquainted with the various methods by which such persons may be assisted, and should be able to advise them how they can bring their cases to the notice of the authority or voluntary agencies making the provision appropriate to their needs. Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, 120 George Street, Edinburgh, price 1d., post free 1½d.

NEWS ITEMS

A religious and social society for the Catholic blind people of Glasgow has been formed. It is known as the Catholic Guild of the Blind.

All the blind of Glasgow and district are eligible for membership. Meetings are held every fortnight, at present in the Catholic Institute. They will be devoted to readings, lectures and social functions.

The formation of a Braille library of Catholic books is one of the Society's objects.

The first non-European School for the Blind in South Africa has been opened at Athlone by the Governor-General. It will serve the needs not only of Cape Town, but of the whole of the Union.

THE truth is always the strongest argument.—SOPHOCLES.

THOUGHTS are mightier than strength of hand.—SOPHOCLES.

SLIGHT not what's near through aiming at what's far.—EURIPIDES.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—(*Continued from page 2 of Cover*)

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Empire.

2582-2587 "Mr. Isaacs," by Marion Crawford (Limited Edition), 6 vols... .. .. per vol. 12 0

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1.
LIST OF ADDITIONS
June, 1927.

FICTION.

Ballantyne, R. M. Martin Rattler .. .. 3 vols.
Canfield, Dorothy. Bent Twig — — 8 vols.
Fletcher, J. S. Heaven-kissed Hill .. .. 2 vols.
Harker, L. Allen. Ffolliots of Redmarley .. 4 vols.
Henderson, B., and Calvert, C. Wonder Tales of Old Tyrol .. .. 3 vols.
Moore, F. Frankfort. Adventures of Nell Gwynne.. .. .. 3 vols.
*Postgate, I. J. Silver Birch and other stories (Selections) .. .. 2 vols.
Silberrad, Una L. Honest Man .. .. 5 vols.
Royde-Smith, Naomi. Tortoiseshell Cat .. 4 vols.
Suckow, Ruth. Odyssey of a Nice Girl .. 6 vols.

MISCELLANEOUS.

*Boswell. J. Life of Samuel Johnson (abridged and newly edited by R. Ingpen) .. .. 8 vols.
Braithwaite, W. C. Spiritual Guidance in the Experience of the Society of Friends .. 1 vol.
*Buck, P. C. Scope of Music .. .. .. 2 vols.
Cook, Augusta. Near Return of Our Lord (4 Lectures delivered London, 1920) .. .. 2 vols.
Gore, Bishop. Body of Christ.. .. .. 4 vols.
Grou, L'Abbé. Manual for Interior Souls .. 5 vols.
Grubb, E. Society of Friends and what it stands for .. .. 1 vol.
Hibbert, G. K. Reality of Religious Experience 1 vol.
Lubbock, P. Samuel Pepys .. .. .. 3 vols.
Lucas, E. V. Events and Embroideries .. 3 vols.
*Raleigh, Sir W. English Novel .. .. 3 vols.
*Thomas, L. With Lawrence in Arabia .. 4 vols.
Walpole, Horace. Selected Letters .. .. 6 vols.

GRADE I.

*Postgate, I. J. Silver Birch and other stories (Selections) .. .. 1 vol.

GRADE III.

Housman, L. Comments of Juniper, Six Plays from the Life and Legend of St. Francis of Assisi .. .. 1 vol.

MOON.

*Merriman, H. S. In Kedar's Tents .. .. 5 vols.

** Presented by the National Institute for the Blind.*

Wanted, a capable, sighted **Lady Home Teacher and Visitor** for the Blind of the Soke of Peterborough. Salary to begin at £156. State experience and qualifications. Apply HON. SEC., Peterborough Association for the Blind, Keeble's Chambers, Cowgate, Peterboro'.

Two Lady Home Teachers, sighted (blind persons with guiding sight will be considered), required for Plymouth Borough area. Apply, stating age, training, and experience, and enclosing copies of testimonials, to P. A. CLAPHAM, Hon. Sec., South Devon and Cornwall Institution for the Blind, Plymouth.

Organiser (Young), accustomed to Lecturing, experience of many branches of Appeal Work, knowledge of Blind Welfare, **desires appointment** with a Society for the Blind. Address: "ORGANISER," care Editor, *Beacon*.

The American Foundation for the Blind wishes to obtain the following back numbers of *The Beacon* in order to complete their file :—

1917 : January, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.
1918 : May, June, July.
1919 : January, February, April, May, June, August, September, November, December.
1923 : July.
1924 : March, July.
1925 : February.

Will readers willing to supply these communicate (without sending the copies in the first instance) with the Magazine Department, National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, W.1.

WANTED, several **Home Teachers** for work amongst unemployable blind persons in Birmingham, Smethwick and West Bromwich. Apply, stating age, qualifications, experience and whether blind or sighted, to the Secretary, Blind Institution, Edgbaston, Birmingham, not later than Monday, July 11th, 1927.

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the June Numbers)

Progress.—In Ancient Times—Personal Reminiscences of the Inventor of the Telephone—The Pygmies—Artificial Silk—Correspondence—Our Prize Competitions—Cross-Word Puzzle—Matters of the Moment—Advertisements—A Bloomsbury Square—National Library Extension—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page: His Majesty's Speech at the State Banquet in honour of M. Doumergue on 17th May, 1927—Narain Singh Bahadur. Supplements: "Progress" Chess; Home Occupations for the Blind: Doll's Furniture in Pulp Cane; Announcements; Statistical Information of Blind Persons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—The Chinese Problem through Chinese Eyes—Gardens of the Bible—The Sense of Humour—Blake and Beethoven—Taming African Elephants—Scholarships for the Blind, July, 1927—The Game of Conversation—An Episode from "The Diary" (Poem)—Vaudeville. Supplements: Announcements; Statistical Information of Blind Persons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—My Choir of Nightingales—The Gold Candlestick of Jerusalem—The Motor Car and its Story: No. 1: The Coming of the Motor—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—The First Box of Matches—China: Facts and Figures. Supplements: "Comrades"; Announcements; Map of Wales: General. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Lecture on Psychology—Official Notices—The Treatment of Infantile Paralysis. Supplements: "Massage Journal" Inset: Massage and Electrical Treatment for Insured Persons; News from the Centres; Massage and Exercises during the Puerperium; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6d. per copy, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Progress in Sight-reading—Singing in Secondary Boys' Schools—Obituary: Dr. C. Macpherson—Notes and News Concerning the Blind—The "Little Organ-Book" of Bach—Special Notice. Supplements: Braille Music Reviews; Announcements; Statistical Information of Blind Persons—Insets: Piano: "Impromptu in A," by Scriabine; Song: "Know'st Thou the Land," by Beethoven. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Channels of Blessing.—The End better than the Beginning—Noontide Hymn—Notes on Proverbs—A Faithful Servant—The Christ of the Indian Road—Our Letter from India—Braille Missionary Union—A Prayer for Charity—How I Found Christ—Hand and Knee Work—Kindness—Our Post Bag—Light in Darkness Birthday League—Prayer Union—Gleanings—Inset: "Channels of Blessing"; Supplements: Paul's Conversion; Tools for Teachers.

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Resumé of Programmes Broadcast from Stations (England and Wales) of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—The Glacial Period—News Items—The Poet's Corner—Favourite Quotations—The Year 1920, and After—Textile Weaving for Blind Men—Advertisements and General Notices—The Ecliptic—The Future of "The Tribune"—Humble Crumbs. Supplements: Literary: "Masters of English Prose—George Borrow," Mr. Nigel Playfair. Music: History of a Song: "The Better Land," by A. B. Cooper. Piano: "Spring Song," by Mendelssohn. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—The Quaker who saved Ten Million Lives (Radio Times)—The Chinese Puzzle (John o' London's Weekly)—Destroying the World's Trees—Tragedy of "Old Dick"—Gabriel Samara, Book 1, Chapters 18, 19, by E. Phillips Oppenheim—Honey in a Roof—Scene in a Drop of Blood—Witney Blankets (The Home Furnisher)—Thought for the Month—The Dragons are Coming to Town—A Lonely Island—300 Pictures for every House—A Vegetable Chair. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 1s. 8d. per month, post free.)

The Light Bringer.—From the Braille Room: An American Publication in Braille; New Book as Serial Considered; A Supplement for T.S. Members; World-Peace or War? Lectures in June at Queen's Hall—A Statement, by Dr. Annie Besant—Thought-Power (Chapter 5), by Mrs. Besant—C. W. Leadbeater's Eighteenth Birthday, by the Rt. Rev. F. W. Pigott—Review of "The Masters and the Path"—Our Duty to Animals—Theosophy and Christianity, by Clara M. Codd—The Theosophical World University, by J. Emile Marcault, M.A., LL.B.—Service—Five Golden Rules.

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

Moon Magazine.—The Siege of Berlin—One Man's Poison—Big Game in Britain—What Our Land is Worth. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 9s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1927

AUGUST

Vol. XI No. 128

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.
The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	CHURCH—		
7880	"Ave Verum" ("Jesu, Word of God Incarnate") Motet, by Gounod (Vertical score)	2	0
7881	"The Lord Worketh Wonders," Bass Air from "Judas Maccabæus," by Handel (A minor: Compass A, to E'), pocket size	2	0
	ORGAN—		
7882	Sonata No. 2 in C minor, Vol. 1, by Bach (Bar by bar)	2	0
7883	"Pensées du Soir," by Herbert F. Ellingford (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7884	"A Wedding Piece," by Ernest Farrar (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7885	Prelude and Fugue in A, by Samuel Wesley (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO—		
7886	Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, by Bach (Bar by bar), pocket size	3	0
7887	"The Roadmender," Five Little Pieces for Wayfarers, by Kathleen Bailey (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7888	"The Millstream," Op. 10, No. 2, by W. Sterndale Bennett (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7889	Valse-Barcarolle in F, by Borowski (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7890	Variations on a Theme by Paganini, Op. 35, by Brahms (Bar by bar), pocket size	3	0
7891	"Sympathy," by A. M. Goodhart (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7892	"Funeral March of a Marionette," by Gounod (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7893	"Suite Bijou" (without octaves), by T. J. Hewitt (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7894	"Etude de Concert," in D flat, by Liszt (Bar by bar)	2	0
7895	"Autumn Thoughts," Book 1 (8 Short Pieces), Op. 8, by Rébikoff (Bar by bar), pocket size	3	0
7896	"The Sea," by Alec Rowley (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7897	"Summer Days" (12 Little Pieces without octaves), by Wilfrid Sanderson (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO DUETS—		
	Ten National Airs, arr. by H. E. Hunt—		
7898	Primo Parts (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7899	Secondo Parts (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	DANCE—		
7900	"Ain't she sweet?" Song Fox-Trot, by M. Ager (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7901	"Drifting and Dreaming," Song Fox-Trot, by Alstyne, Schmidt and Curtis (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7902	"Roses for Remembrance," Song Fox-Trot, by L. Curtis (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7903	"Dreamy Devon," Song Waltz, by T. Evans (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
7904	"The Mocking Bird Song," by Bishop (D: Compass D to F'), pocket size	2	0
7905	"Caller Herrin'," arr. by G. H. Clutsam (F: Compass C to F'), pocket size	2	0
7906	"Robin Adair," arr. by G. H. Clutsam (A flat: Compass E to F'), pocket size	2	0
7907	"The English Rose," from "Merrie England," by Edward German (G: Compass C sharp to E'), pocket size	2	0
7908	"The Savoury Seal," by Maurice Jacobson (A minor: Compass E to C' sharp), pocket size	2	0
7909	"Trysting Song," by Liza Lehmann (F minor: Compass A to A'), pocket size	2	0
7910	"Elizabeth's Prayer," from "Tannhäuser," by Wagner (F: Compass C to F')	2	0
7911	Lohengrin's Farewell ("Beloved Swan"), from "Lohengrin," by Wagner (A: Compass E to A')	2	0
7912	"I Love Little Pussy," Unison Song for Preparatory Forms, by Edward Watson, pocket size	2	0

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

	EDUCATIONAL—		
7656	"English Prose and how to write it," by Robert Blatchford	5	0
	FICTION—		
7502-7503	"By the Gods Beloved," by Baroness Orczy, 3 vols.	per vol. 9	0

(*Continued on page 3 of Cover*)

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XI.—NO. 128. AUGUST, 1927. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

THE APPOINTMENTS BOARD OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND



THE problem of finding new industries for the blind is one which has engaged the attention of the National Institute for some time past. Valuable work has been performed by the Institute's Placement Department, which is concerned in finding occupations for the sightless beyond those commonly practised in institutions and workshops for the blind. It was in order to increase the efficiency of this Department, and to give the blind worker every possible chance, that the National Institute recently formed an Appointments Board, with Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., as Chairman.

Results to date, which form illuminating reading, were discussed at a Board Meeting held at the National Institute for the Blind on Thursday, June 23rd, 1927.

Sir Beachcroft Towse opened the meeting with an expression of thanks to those who had so generously given of their time to attend. He said that the problem of finding new industries for the blind had received more attention in France, Germany and the United States than in England, and that it was up to us to show the world that this country could come to the fore in this matter.

The Secretary to the Board said that early in 1926 the first national effort was made in this country to find work for blind people in occupations hitherto untouched by them. The "placement" work was going on well until May of that year, when the coal strike intervened, and the work ceased for the time being. Since then it had again been making steady progress. For some time past the National Institute had felt that the only really satisfactory method of tackling the matter was to request a number of eminent business men to serve on the Appointments Board, similar to the University Appointments Boards. Their duties would be to explore the possibilities of finding employment for (*a*) the higher educated blind (male and female), and (*b*) those capable of being employed in sighted factories. Those in category (*a*) were the more difficult to place, as in the majority of cases their training in the colleges and universities had been of a general character; and, unless the student had either influence or money, the chances of finding employment were very remote. The reason for this was doubtless that the blind person concerned did not know what professions offered the most likely openings. In this respect the Appointments Board could give valuable assistance by suggesting courses of study to enable a blind trainee to obtain a position at the end of his training, and, if possible, by individual members offering to employ a certain number of these people every year. If this could be achieved, then courses could be arranged for the particular pupil with a view to his taking up a definite line of work. Many firms had been approached during the last year and

requested to employ the more highly educated blind, but not one had been willing to make the experiment. This was no doubt due to ignorance as to what blind people could do, and also to the fact that the employers did not wish to be bothered by their training.

Those in category (*b*) were by far the larger number. The problem, however, of placing these cases was easier, as vocational training was unnecessary, the only requirement being a suitable job, *i.e.* one that made use of either the tactile or hearing senses ; there were many hundreds of this type.

It was not, however, always possible, even after finding suitable work, to get the blind employed in a particular factory, as sometimes the layout of the shop was unsuitable, due to moving machinery, etc. The best means of overcoming this difficulty was to persuade the manager to set aside part of the shop for the blind employees. This had been successfully done by Messrs. Cadbury and Wells & Co., where, however, there was no danger from machinery—the blind employee could work next to a sighted one.

The problem of insurance was not very serious, as the majority of companies, when they had once realised that a blind person by reason of his or her disability was by far the most careful person in the entire organisation, waived any question of extra premiums.

The third and last obstacle to be met was the attitude taken up by the Union involved, and up to then this had not presented any serious difficulties. Only one Union—the Musical Instrument Makers' Union—had vetoed the employment of blind labour, owing to the high percentage of their unemployed ; they had, however, agreed to allow firms to employ the blind when trade improved.

Mr. A. J. W. Kitchin referred to the list of professions and occupations at present practised by blind men and women, and stated that there were none of these in which the blind had not at some time or another distinguished themselves, but that in all of them (or nearly all of them) the chances of the blind to gain positions in such professions or occupations were extremely limited as compared with those of the sighted similarly trained. At the present time a number of blind men were distinguishing themselves both in Law and in the Church; but at the same time the task of securing suitable appointments for other blind men who had completed their studies in those professions was by no means an easy one, and as a matter of fact, so far as the Church was concerned, it was becoming more and more difficult to induce churches of any denomination to accept blind men.

Mr. Kitchin thought that probably one profession—that of massage—afforded the blind better opportunities of obtaining remunerative work than the sighted, partly, no doubt, because of the extraordinarily sensitive touch with which the blind were equipped, but largely because of the splendid organisation operating at the National Institute, which was doing an invaluable service in the matter of gaining positions for well-trained blind masseurs and masseuses.

With regard to shorthand-typists, he stated that experience had shown that their efficiency in typing the ordinary correspondence of large business houses was equal to that of any sighted typists, but there was the greatest difficulty in the world in securing employment for the many blind shorthand-typists who were being turned out of the various schools and colleges year by year. Mr. Kitchin pointed out that such typists could only be employed in large firms or government departments where there was an immense amount of correspondence to be done, as obviously their handicap prevented them from undertaking filing and record work or the keeping of accounts. He appealed very strongly to the representatives of business houses who were present to give blind typists the opportunity of performing that part of the work of an office of which they were capable. He emphasised also the claim of professional blind men and women to the same sympathetic consideration, for it was very hard that blind men and women of admitted intellectual power should be driven into workshops to work with their hands because of the lack of influence and opportunity in their own particular sphere of work. These people should be assisted to give adequate expression to their mental abilities.

The factory side of the work was discussed by the Superintendent of the Institute's After-Care Department, who stated that at the very best, at present, the nature of the problem before them could only be indicated, and that it was necessary to rely upon more experimentation and research clearly to define the limits within which it might reasonably be hoped to obtain results in the future.

He thought that it was true to say that they were impelled to seek additional manual occu-

pations for the employment of non-seeing people, firstly because experience had shown that the number of pursuits practised in the special institutions was far too restricted in the matter of providing for the various degrees of capacity. Moreover, it was demonstrated beyond all dispute that large aggregations of blind persons, working together on common tasks, failed to acquire such a standard of output as to satisfy the economic necessities of the industry in which they were engaged. Their speed and the quality of their production tended to be limited by the attainments of the mediocre workman rather than by the more valuable and efficient attributes of the capable artisan; in this sphere, as elsewhere, "Like followed Like" to a very remarkable degree. An examination of the present situation conclusively proved that where one or more blind persons might be engaged in the ordinary factory or workshop, the speed and quality of his output tended to approach more closely to that of the normal man; hence, it was concluded, it was reasonable to expect both a higher quality and production and a greater output where it was possible to employ non-seeing labour in association with work performed by others.

If it was granted that the employee engaged in the special workshops might attain an output equal to one-half that of the seeing artisan engaged in the same handicraft, it was rather under-estimating the case to suggest that, given ordinary factory or workshop atmosphere, production could be increased by an additional 30 per cent. at the very lowest computation. This view was confirmed by experimental work conducted in Germany, in a more limited way in France, and in the United States of America, whilst the small efforts that had been made in this country led to a similar conclusion.

Economic earnings in the experiments which had been tried here had always been higher than those obtainable in the special workshops.

He stated that he was always endeavouring to lay stress upon the economic aspect of this subject, because he knew that in the final analysis prospective employers must be influenced more by facts than by sentiment; and it was this knowledge which prompted him to urge that by slight re-adaptation of machinery and plant many processes, then undertaken in factories and workshops by normal persons, could equally well be discharged by the blind, without increasing manufacturing costs, and consequently without adversely affecting profits. In many professions blind men and women were making their way on equal terms with their seeing colleagues, and he personally believed that by a process of associating non-seeing workers with the conditions obtaining in ordinary workshop life, they would, if permitted to undertake specific operations, give the same economic returns as those derived from the efforts of other employees.

Surely it was the business of every competent authority who worked on behalf of the blind, either in this or any other country, to encourage and foster such a point of view; for, by so doing, they were placing a check on the mischievous notion which prevailed at the present time, viz., that one could proceed *ad infinitum* to dip into the public purse for the maintenance of every kind of social service, regardless of the ability of the beneficiaries to make provision for their own legitimate needs.

Not only would one be performing a great public service by taking the view that he had here tried to express, but the adoption of such an attitude would lead, as a necessary corollary, to the greater development of self-reliance and independence, which was by no means so prevalent in the blind community of that day as could be wished.

He was persuaded that it was not a good thing for any man to realise that, whether he pulled his weight in this work-a-day world or not, he would be assured of a permanent income; for, after all, such a guarantee represented but the result of the creative energy of others, and he knew from a long experience in the non-seeing world that such competencies were particularly detrimental to many blind men, and that from every conceivable angle of approach. If he might be permitted briefly to summarise his conclusions, he would say that the occupations generally practised by male adults in the workshops were amongst the poorest-paid pursuits in industry. Further than that, there was always present in such places an atmosphere that was too widely separated from *bona-fide* productive undertakings. He had also to submit that the very association of charity with industry gave a wrong conception and created a false sense of security which was based upon humanitarian conceptions rather than upon economic considerations. The workshops, for the most part, would continue to serve the purposes for which they were originally designed, viz., to

cater for a partially dependent section of the community, those whose economic powers were generally registered at a low level ; but it was necessary to contend that just as the best educationalists in the blind world told us that it was their primary duty so to train non-seeing children as to make them as normal as possible, so in like manner was it the National Institute for the Blind's task to prepare and assign to the adult such work as would permit him to live a normal life, free and independent, undertaking his quota of the world's work, governed by the same economic conditions as those by which the activities of other men were decided.

He conceived it to be the business of this Board or of its auxiliary associations, by experiment and research, to set in motion the machinery by which these ideals might be brought to practical fruition.

In conclusion, he desired to urge that the untiring energies of those who were building up the educational system would be largely neutralised unless provision for such facilities as would yield useful avenues of employment was sought for, and thereby secure a genuine economic status for those in whom they were professed to be interested.

The truest approach to the normal could best be attained by so shaping conditions as to make them conform to the approved patterns and standards acceptable to ordinary man ; and this was the task to which they stood committed by the somewhat new and more enlightened conception which was now borne in upon them, and by which their thoughts were gradually being moulded.

Mr. W. Merrick, in a few words, told the Board what other countries were doing. The pamphlets in Esperanto which he distributed gave a detailed description of that work.

Dr. Eichholz, of the Board of Education, urged that, in order to obtain financial support, they needed publicity, He suggested that the National Institute, and those who worked in co-operation with that Institution, should set up an agency or some instrument of publicity by means of which the world as a whole could be made acquainted with what the blind could do collectively and as individuals. His suggestion was that from time to time in the public Press the National Institute should not merely issue an explanation as to what the blind as a whole could achieve, but that they should publish a list of persons who had been trained and as to whose competence they could certify, showing in what direction that competence lay, and inviting employers and the public generally to give these people a chance.

With regard to research work as to professions and industries in which the blind could be engaged, he suggested that the National Institute should get into touch with the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, and that that body be invited to undertake a research based on employment in workshops and other careers, in order that eventually they might be requisitioned to frame a document from which the National Institute for the Blind could derive advice as to necessary changes, and perhaps as to the adoption of a new attitude towards the blind themselves and regarding the public as a whole.

Other speakers included Mr. F. M. Earle, representing the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, who expressed his sympathy with Dr. Eichholz' suggestion.

Mr. F. R. Lovett, of the Ministry of Health, emphasised the point that few experiments could be made unless they could succeed in getting employers really interested in the problem. He said that, however competent a blind worker might be, the ordinary employer had a great prejudice against taking the risk of employing a blind man.

The Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind) laid stress on the fact that they were appealing for the competent blind only, and expressed his Committee's desire to second the Board's activities in every possible way.

Mr. J. Mulhall (National Institute) asked those representatives of industry who were present to assist in extending the experiments already made ; and

Mr. G. F. Mowatt (Hon. Treasurer, National Institute) strongly advocated the employment of the blind amongst sighted workers, saying that it would kill the scheme to attempt to employ the unemployable blind.

Mr. H. J. Wagg (National Institute) put forward two suggestions : (1) That blind persons might be employed to take charge of certain classes of stores ; and (2) that blind persons might be engaged as cloakroom attendants in clubs and hotels. In both instances Braille labels could be employed.

Mr. G. C. Brown (Headmaster, Worcester College for the Blind) briefly discussed the question of vocational training.

In conclusion, the Secretary put forward the proposal that the National Institute for the Blind should be given the opportunity of finding candidates for those posts which were suitable for the blind whenever a change was to be made on the staff of a firm.

In an appendix to the report is given the Board's findings as to suitable operations for the blind in trade :—

TRADE AND SUITABLE OPERATIONS.	WHETHER AT PRESENT EMPLOYED IN THIS CAPACITY.
Foodstuff—	
1. Sweet Wrapping	Yes
2. Chocolate Foiling	Yes
3. Chocolate Packing	Yes
4. Feeding Chocolate Coating Machine	No
5. Feeding Trays on Conveyers	No
6. Inserting Brown Paper Edging on Cardboard Boxes	No
Toilet Requisites—	
1. Ball Soap Cupping	No
2. Cardboard Box Folding	Yes
3. Soap Washing and Wrapping	No
4. Soap Trimming	No
5. Preparing Shaving Soap Cases	No
6. Foiling Shaving Soap	No
7. Tying up Articles for Distribution to Stores	No
8. Putting Wrappers on Toothpaste Tubes and Inserting in Cartons	No
9. Bottle Capping	No
Photography—	
1. Feeding Print Drying Machine	No
2. Cardboard Box Folding	No
3. Wallet Folding	Yes
4. Packing Cinema Film Tins in Cardboard Boxes	No
5. Detaching Paper Wallets from Sheet after being stamped out	No
6. Wrapping Films in Wax Paper	No
7. Opening Cartons for Films	No
8. Wrapping Sensitised Paper in Wax Paper, and Packing same	No
Engineering—	
1. Threading Fish Spine Beads	No
2. Fitting Adapters on Flexible Leads for Flat Irons	No
3. Threading for Plating	No
4. Assembling Wires on Oven Elements	No
5. Transmission Testing (Automatic Telephones)	No
6. Relay Spring Setting (Automatic Telephones)	No
7. Star Wheel Assembly (Automatic Telephones)	No
8. Terminal Strip Assembly (Automatic Telephones)	No
9. Packing Terminal Blocks in Paper	No
10. Battery Wrapping	No
11. Testing Earphones	Yes
12. Assembling Nuts on Stems	Yes
13. Assembling Lamp Holders	No
14. Lamp Cap Filling with Paste	No
15. Cleaning Lamps	No
16. Gauging Glass Tubes	No
17. Hand Presses	No
18. Switch Assembly	No
19. Ringing Coins	Yes

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

BARCLAY WORKSHOPS FOR BLIND WOMEN.—We have received the 21st Annual Report of the Barclay Workshops, which points to steady progress and expansion of all branches of the work. There are now 59 blind women being assisted, and of these 37 were trained at the Barclay Home, Brighton.

It is hoped that the new building at 19 Crawford Street will be ready for use before the end of the summer. This will enable at least 20 more blind women to be employed.

The sales during the last eight years show a steady increase, and during the year under review the figure given is £7,768 as compared with £7,379 in the preceding period. It is recorded that the sum of £730 was allocated to the Workshops by the Greater London Fund for the Blind. A Ministry of Health grant of £852 was received during the year, and annual subscriptions and donations totalled £814.

The Committee record, with sincere regret, the death last September of Miss Laura Douglas-Hamilton, Vice-President of the Barclay Institutions, in whom the blind have lost a true friend.

Mrs. F. Hattersley Ward this year completed twenty years' service as Superintendent of the Workshops, and the occasion was marked by the presentation of a clock on behalf of the Council and Committee, who expressed the hope that she would be able to carry on her splendid work for many more years to come.

A good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.—MILTON.

OBITUARY

WE greatly regret to have occasion to include the following paragraph in our magazine, for we had hoped that Mr. Alfred Wrigley would have been spared for many years to uphold in Torquay the prestige of blind musicians. Mr. H. C. Warrilow says "I knew him only through the medium of correspondence, but my letters from him gave me an insight into his attractive personality and his evident musicianship, and his charming Rondo alla Tarantella for the piano, which found a place in the N.I.B. Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers, testifies to his distinctive gifts as a composer."

The following is an extract from *The Torquay Congregationalist* (Church Magazine) :—

"On Thursday, June 16th, after prolonged illness, borne with Christian fortitude and cheerfulness, our organist, Mr. Alfred Wrigley, L.R.A.M., L.I.S.M., passed to his rest. Mr. Wrigley, who was born in Manchester in 1886, came to Torquay about nine years ago. Blind from birth and never at any time in robust health, our friend's successful career is a notable instance of what can be achieved by patient perseverance. After a brief period in the School for the Blind at Sheffield, Mr. Wrigley, at the age of ten, went to the Henshaw Institute for the Blind at Manchester. There he remained for some years, and during this period won, in open competition, the Lancashire County Council Scholarship for Music. In 1905 he became a Licentiate of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and four years later he gained a similar diploma from the Royal Academy of Music. While at Manchester Mr. Wrigley's services were in much request. He served for a period at Cavendish Chapel—the scene of Dr. Parker's early ministry—and subsequently became organist and choirmaster of St. Luke's Church, Cheetham Hill. Ill-health led to his resignation of this post and relinquishment of a considerable number of professional engagements. Soon after coming to Torquay he accepted the post of organist at our church. After holding the office for two years he resigned, as he did not feel strong enough to carry out the duties in addition to other work he was then doing. Some eighteen months after, a vacancy having taken place, he resumed the office, which he held till death. Of the services he rendered us and of his rare gifts it is impossible to speak too highly. His talents and his devotion to his work were exceptional. The funeral took place on 21st inst., the service in the Church and at the graveside being conducted by the minister."

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
	CLASSICS.	
Euripides.	Alcestis	1
	ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE.	
Lipson, E.	Increased Production	1
Robertson, W. A.	Insurance	2
	ENGLISH LITERATURE.	
O'Neill, E.	Stories that Words Tell Us	3
	HISTORY.	
Fowler, W. Warde.	City-State of the Greeks and Romans	4
Petrie, W. Flinders.	Social Life in Ancient Egypt ..	2
Robertson, C. G.	Making of the English Nation ..	2
	MODERN LANGUAGES.	
Labiche, E., and Jolly, A.	La Grammaire	1
	PHILOSOPHY.	
Boldt, E.	From Luther to Steiner	3
	POETRY AND DRAMA.	
Spenser, E.	Shepheard's Calender and The Amoretti	2
Tchehov, A.	Cherry Orchard	1
	POLITICAL SCIENCE.	
Hazell, W. H.	Labour and Capital in Alliance ..	2
Thomson, G. W.	Grammar of Powers	3
	SCIENCE.	
Thomson, J. A.	Everyday Biology	2
	THEOLOGY AND RELIGION.	
Caudwell, I.	All about Ceremonies	1
Steiner, R.	Christianity as a Mystical Fact ..	3

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND

SEPTEMBER, 1927

THE next examination for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40 tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.19, will be held on Tuesday, the 13th, and Wednesday, the 14th of September. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the date of the Examination, must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years and be intending to remain so resident. Applications should be made to the Principal on or before Thursday, the 25th day of August, and the forms, properly filled in and completed, returned to the College on or before Thursday, the 1st of September, or the candidate's name will not be placed on the list.

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

THEODORE HENRY TYLOR, M.A., B.C.L.



WE take a peculiar pleasure in introducing our readers to Mr. Theodore Henry Tylor, the subject of this month's biography. Mr. Tylor belongs to the younger generation of workers for the blind, and has achieved a fine measure of success both in his academic career and in his efforts to help his fellows in the blind community. An account of his life should, therefore, not only be of interest as showing what a blind man can do, but should also act as an encouragement to his still younger colleagues to "Go and do likewise."



THEODORE HENRY TYLOR, M.A., B.C.L.

He was born on April 13th, 1900, being the son of Henry Bedford Tylor, the architect who designed many of the buildings which beautify the Garden City of Bournville. One hardly likes to think of the sufferings he underwent in very early life. Glaucoma set in at the age of three and a half, and only a tiny scrap of sight remained in the corner of his left eye. His parents took him from one English oculist to another, only to be told that his case was hopeless. At last, having heard of the famous German oculist, Pagenstecher, they took the child to him at Wiesbaden, where three operations were performed, with the result that the disease was rendered dormant and the precious atom of sight saved. No anæsthetics were employed for these operations, and the ordeal, which would have been a terrible one for an adult, must have been agonising for so tiny a child. For years afterwards, he tells us, the memory of this horror induced bad nightmares, and the delicacy of his constitution caused his parents many hours of the keenest anxiety. Luckily, his nature was a happy one. He spent hours contentedly with a board, baking tin and a big lump of plasticine, reproducing history scenes and inventing new historical episodes. He was never bored, and from his very earliest days the hours have hardly seemed long enough for him to finish all he has undertaken to do. In 1906 his parents were fortunate in securing the services of a lady who was greatly interested in the education of blind children. For three years Miss Mildred Partridge taught the lad, helping him to lay the foundations of thoroughness and perseverance which have stood him in such good stead in later life. He remembers his lessons with much pleasure, and all the fun enjoyed by the two in their hours of recreation, especially the joyous hunts for wild Indians in the jungles of Bournville Park!

Theodore was always a thoughtful boy, and he would reason things out in quite a remarkable way. When not yet two years of age he was put in the corner for some childish misdemeanour. After a few minutes' silence he looked round and said to his mother, "I wish my daddy would build round houses, then there'd be no corners to put me into." His memory was excellent, and shortly before going to Wiesbaden he entertained his mother's women's meeting by repeating fourteen pieces of poetry, standing on a table and laughing heartily at the funny parts to the great delight of his audience. Wisely his parents realised that the great thing was to help their blind lad to be independent and as much like other people as possible.

In 1909 he went to Worcester College for the Blind, where he worked hard, his reports registering nothing but progress. After eight

years under the excellent tuition and influence of Mr. G. C. Brown and Mr. J. S. Cooper, he passed Responsions, together with a special subject, Logic, at the age of 17. It being considered inadvisable for him to take up residence at the University at that early age, he decided to spend another year with Mr. Brown. It had been originally intended that he should follow Sir Washington Ranger in going up to Worcester College; but the reputation of Balliol, coupled with the fact that his grandfather's first cousin, Sir Edward Burnett Tylor, the well-known anthropologist, was a Balliol man, led to his taking the Balliol Matriculation in 1918 and entering into residence in the following autumn. Owing to the absence of Edward Hilliard, the Law Tutor, on war service, he read history for two terms before turning to the Law Preliminary which he took during the third. He became a life member of the Union, but confined public speaking to the University Moot Club until, with others, he founded the Younger Society, the Balliol College Moot Club. In 1922 he obtained a First in the Honours School of Jurisprudence, as a result of which the College elected him an honorary scholar. On the advice of the late Master, Mr. A. L. Smith, who befriended him in every possible way, he stayed on another year, working for the B.C.L. He was unable to cover the course in the time; but, as it did not seem worth while to wait for a whole year, he took the examination at the end of 1923, obtaining a good Second. The Master was most anxious that he should try teaching before settling down as a solicitor, and he therefore took on most of the work of Mr. Hilliard who was absent on a year's holiday. This he found so enjoyable that when the College offered him an assistant lectureship he decided to give up the idea of practising law. In 1927, on the retirement of Mr. Hilliard, Mr. Tylor was elected Tutor and Lecturer in Jurisprudence for seven years. Owing to his father's untimely death when he was only 14, his career, he says, was only rendered possible by the generosity of various organisations to which he expresses his deep gratitude. These were a local county education committee, the Fawcett Scholarship Committee, Gardner's Trust, the Society of Friends' Education Committee, and the National Institute for the Blind. He also received a grant from his own College during his last year there. He was greatly assisted in his studies by a number of books from the Students' Library of the National Institute for the Blind.

In his recreations, as well as in his work, Mr. Tylor shows the same boundless zeal. His chief hobby is chess, which he considers provides a real outlet both for mathematical ability and for an artistic temperament. After captaining his School, which won the Worcestershire Public Schools' Championship, he was captain of the University for four years, then of the Worcestershire, and at present of the Oxfordshire Chess Club which this year won the Midland Counties' Championship. His individual successes are as follows:—Worcester City Handicap, 1917, first prize; Birmingham Tournament, 1919, third and brilliancy prize; University Championship, 1920-23; Oxford City Championship, 1925-26; Worcester Championship, 1924-25; Oxfordshire Championship, 1925-26; Birmingham Post Cup Three-County Championship, 1924-26; All-British Championship, 1925, fourth prize. He strongly recommends chess to his blind friends; it provides, he says, endless interest and an opportunity to meet other people on all but equal terms. In addition, he is a keen bridge player, is fond of dancing, and is a voracious reader of the National Library on the lighter side. When Mr. Brown became Headmaster of Worcester College for the Blind, he introduced rowing into the School, and this was eagerly taken up by Mr. Tylor, who has since continued to regard it as one of his favourite forms of recreation. He rowed for his School in many events against other Schools and St. Dunstan's, and would like to see this sport brought within the reach of blind men all over the country. He often goes to the annual regatta at Worcester, and has rowed for the Old Boys, and he still holds the Cruse Cup for their Sculling Championship. He believes that nothing did more to foster the true public-school spirit at Worcester than this splendid experiment. A further interesting experiment of Mr. Brown's was the formation of two patrols of Boy Scouts, of the first of which Mr. Tylor became Patrol Leader. Many badges were won by the patrols, who took a full share in a week-end encampment of over 1,500 Scouts. On the opening of the National Institute for the Blind by the King in 1914, these Scouts formed a guard of honour, and Mr. Tylor remembers being rather puzzled by His Majesty's kindly enquiry as to how they lighted a fire in the open, to which General Baden-Powell provided a

timely if somewhat imaginative answer. The fact, of course, was that they did these things precisely like anybody else. It may here be mentioned that on this occasion Their Majesties shook hands with all the Scouts, as they could not see their salute.

Mr. Tylor's efforts on behalf of his blind friends are of a wide and comprehensive nature. In 1924 he was introduced to the work of the National Institute for the Blind, was soon invited to join several of its committees, and was elected a member of the Council. His help on the Education Committee is of great value, as many applications for training grants are received from "Worcester" boys whose needs are well known to the subject of our biography. His advice with regard to the manufacture and adaptation of games and apparatus for the blind is important to the Technical and Research Committee, as it expresses the practical view-point of a man who is himself sightless. His work on the Publications Committee is also extremely helpful, whilst, as an authority on law, his recommendations of suitable books for the Students' Library of the National Institute for the Blind is invaluable.

We understand that Mr. Tylor is now reading for the Bar, and whether he specialises as a lecturer or seeks a wider sphere for his labours, we wish him all success. His future career will be followed with intense interest by his many friends and well-wishers, and will, we feel sure, add yet a further and deeper significance to the words "Victory over Blindness."

E. G.

MASSAGE SUCCESSES

THREE blind students, recently presented from the Massage School of the National Institute for the Blind, have all successfully qualified at the Midsummer examinations of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics. Their names are :—

Mr. W. H. Coates (Gardner Scholar)
Mr. D. K. Peacock
Mr. E. A. Steel.

Mr. Coates, who has started work in Oxford, recently had his B.A. degree conferred upon him at Oxford, where he took an Honours degree at Queen's College in June, 1925.

HONOUR FOR WORKER AMONG THE BLIND

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

THE Sunderland and Durham County Royal Institute for the Blind is to be heartily congratulated upon having as its Chairman so able and distinguished a gentleman as Alderman W. Raine, M.P.

His numerous friends are delighted at the well-merited honour of knighthood which has been conferred on him. Sir Walter's work for the blind of Sunderland and Durham County has won the admiration of all far-seeing people, and he has piloted the local Institute for the Blind through a most difficult period of transition. Bringing his vast business experience to bear on the problems of the blind, the work among them has developed in all directions. He is ever ready to take up personally the case of any blind person, and there are many who have occasion to thank God for Sir Walter Raine.

He has twice been Mayor of Sunderland, and is one of the two members of Parliament for the town.

An expert linguist and a widely-travelled man, his efforts on behalf of numerous "Good Causes" are as remarkable as they are extensive. He is Managing Director of Messrs. J. Raine & Sons, Ltd., Coal Exporters, of Sunderland and Newcastle. Among his many other activities are Chairman of the Sunderland Chamber of Commerce, member of the River Wear Commission, and Vice-President of the Sunderland Naturalist Association.

He is an honoured and distinguished member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. His broad and tolerant views and kindly nature have endeared him to many outside his own religious and political circle.

Lady Raine is a member of the Committee of the Sunderland and Durham County Royal Institute for the Blind, and assists her husband in much of his good work.

ESPERANTO CONGRESS

THE 19th Universal Congress of Esperanto will take place in Danzig from July 28th to August 4th, ending with a pilgrimage to Warsaw to the tomb of Dr. Zamenhof, the author of the language. The Polish Government are giving a free *visa* to Congress members.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

THE number of street collections during the month of May not only made very hard work for the sellers on "Geranium Day," but resulted in some districts in postponement until early July; but despite these difficulties it is now known that the total will amount to upwards of £8,560. Among those who worked hard to win success were the Lady Mayoress and the Mayoresses of many Boroughs. In the West End, the principal depôt was at Apsley House, where Lady Towse was in charge, and others who made themselves responsible for important areas included Lady O'Dwyer, D.B.E., Mrs. Kitchin, Mrs. Wagg, Mrs. West-Russell. Mrs. Shuckburgh (daughter of the Common Serjeant) not only dipped deep into the pockets of the Benchers of the Inner Temple during the day, but headed the "Scarlet Dominoes" party at night which raided many restaurants and clubs.



Photo: Dann, Chiswick

MRS. GRANT MORDEN, WIFE OF THE M.P. FOR BRENTFORD AND CHISWICK, WITH OTHER CHISWICK "HELPERS OF THE BLIND."

Addresses were given during the month of June at Ram's Episcopal Chapel, Chiswick Women's Meeting, Messrs. Harvey's Women's Meeting, Greenwich, and on the 26th at the Camberwell Green Brotherhood. At this latter event His Worship the Mayor of Camberwell presided. He was accompanied by the Mayoress, and a musical programme was provided by blind artistes; the speaker was Mr. Elliot H. Williams.

The month concluded with a well-attended recital, given at the invitation of Lady Beecham by Os-Ke-Non-Ton. The Mohawk singer was welcomed enthusiastically. He was assisted by pupils of Miss Italia Conti in Red Indian costume. During the interval Mr. G. F. Mowatt, who was accompanied by Mrs. Mowatt, made an eloquent appeal. Among those who accepted Lady Beecham's invitation were the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, H.E. The Portuguese Ambassador, the Countess of Clancarty, Lady Beaverbrook, Lord and Lady Abercromby, Mrs. Holder and Mrs. Curran-Gadsden.

A SIGHTLESS TOURIST

MISS ALAMEDA ADAMS, a blind teacher of voice culture, of Cleveland, Ohio, arrived in the liner Aurania after a sightless tour of Europe, says the *Daily Express*. She flew in an airplane across the Channel ascended the Jungfrau, explored the catacombs, and was received in audience by the Pope. She obtained permission from the authorities of art galleries in England, Germany and Italy to touch paintings and works of art.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to July 11th, 796 wireless sets and 1,042 pairs of headphones have been distributed among the blind, the local associations acting as distributing centres.

As a result of the appeal, 362 wireless sets and 180 pairs of headphones have been received.

Donations from private sources and grants from the National Institute for the Blind have enabled the fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and the number distributed.

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)



HENEVER I have found it to be either expedient or necessary to write about wage conditions or to discuss the subject with friends, I have always contended that the basis of such remuneration should not merely be wisely laid but that it should be conceived in an atmosphere impregnated with sympathy and understanding.

If it has sometimes been deemed prudent to recede from a mental attitude formerly adopted in respect of such matters, I have only felt impelled to take such a course when the facts have been properly ascertained and verified. Had one continued to cling to the old fallacies long after they had been exploded, and obstinately refused to accept the new truth, it would have been necessary to have entirely abandoned one's researches, and thus it would have become impossible to have been of any further service to the reform movement.

I ardently desire to know that all blind workers are obtaining reasonable wages; I want to see a properly authenticated scientific assessment of disability, so that legitimate defects can be properly compensated; but with all this, I desire also to feel that the workers are endeavouring by increased and sustained effort to justify such procedure. All sensible people wish to feel that the expenditure we are making upon education and training is being justified in the workshop, and that we are tending unreservedly to become more efficient and not less capable or less industrially productive.

When one can be satisfied on these fundamental issues, it will be comparatively easy to go forward with confidence, able and willing to do battle with the forces of reaction; indeed, such opposition as might be thought to exist would thereby have lost the very reason for its existence.

If the industries in which we are engaged have become so depressed economically that they cannot be made to yield better results, then we must busy ourselves in other directions; but if present conditions are merely occasioned by the outcome of a specious philosophy, or in consequence of a promulgation of a certain set of doctrinal opinions, then the sooner we settle down to honest industry the sooner will we be able to advocate practical and constructive changes.

It is a grievous error to assert that we can secure economic well-being by permitting the wheels of industry merely to rotate at a ca' canny pace. Communities are never enriched, either spiritually or economically, by the result of such a policy, whilst it cannot fail to be destructive of the *morale* of the individual.

From time to time it has been my unhappy experience to read in certain newspapers and in other propagandist literature, statements to the effect that blind workers in Britain are being sweated and exploited by their employers. These captains of industry are said to be the officers in charge of workshops for the blind, who are pursuing this wicked policy for the love of gain and personal aggrandisement.

I make no apology for at once describing these statements as a carefully calculated and deliberate piece of untruthful propaganda, maliciously designed to bring discredit upon a body of men who, in spite of tremendous difficulties, are yet striving to give the very best possible conditions to those over whose destinies they are called to preside.

What the wild men hope to achieve by such misrepresentations it is most difficult to understand, for the slightest investigation is certain to reveal the utter futility of their foolish and altogether unwarrantable *canards*.

If their words are intended to convey any meaning whatever, the inference to be drawn from such utterances is surely that the blind are being overworked and underpaid in order that their so-called employers may derive an excessive profit from their labour, or, in some other mysterious way, obtain a lucrative advantage. One might easily retort truthfully to the effect that some of these people who continually make such assertions, never perform work from which any advantage whatever results; and that they are, in point of fact, the only persons of whom it may be truly said that they exist upon the credulity of dupes, who

are being taught to strive for the moon, though they have never even travelled so far as the Equator.

There is no necessity whatever to indulge in such misrepresentations, or to circulate untruths for the purpose of making a case ; if it were so, nothing but disaster could possibly ensue. A statement of the actual facts will always open up new directions in which development may be looked for, and finality is for most of us a meaningless expression when applied to material progress.

If I may be permitted to state a simple fact, I am inclined to say that the blind industrial worker in Britain is securing a much larger weekly income than could ever be provided for him if he were merely paid the ordinary rates obtaining in the industry in which he is employed. This contention, therefore, absolutely disposes of the sweating and exploiting theory ; but, in order that we may obtain further confirmation of this view, let us look at the matter just a little more closely.

Recently I addressed a questionnaire to most of the workshop authorities in England and Wales on the subject of wage conditions, and replies from 25 of these agencies are before me as I write. Below, therefore, I give the result of my investigations, and must leave it to the reader to say whether I have been able to disprove the statements to which attention is directed in previous paragraphs of this article.

In 1921-22, the number of blind persons employed was 1,573, the total amount of wages and augmentation paid was £140,657 8s. 4d., or an average weekly wage of £1 14s. 3d.

In 1922-23, the number of blind persons employed was 1,730, the total amount of wages and augmentation paid was £143,319 3s. 7d., or an average weekly wage of £1 11s. 10d.

In 1923-24, the number of blind persons employed was 1,804, the total amount of wages and augmentation paid was £146,292 4s. 9d., or an average weekly wage of £1 11s. 2d.

In 1924-25, the number of blind persons employed was 1,878, the total amount of wages and augmentation paid was £156,260 7s. 5d., or an average weekly wages of £1 12s. 0d.

In 1925-26, the number of blind persons employed was 1,937, the total amount of wages and augmentation paid was £166,819 16s. 4d., or an average weekly wage of £1 13s. 1d.

It is only right to observe that some of the larger institutions where the highest wages are being paid have not yet made complete returns, and other institutions where minimum wages obtain are not included in the list so far examined. The general average wage, when full figures are available, will be considerably higher than that revealed in the present statistics.

I think it is made abundantly clear from the foregoing figures that on the whole the industrial worker is being quite fairly treated. I do not suggest that economic earnings and supplementary grants combined are by any means all that is to be desired; but on the other hand, if these men are able to secure proper payment for their actual work, and if, in addition, they are also given considerable weekly subsidies, it is really very difficult to understand how the foolish charges to which I have alluded can find any measure of support.

When the people who invent these stupid *canards* are seriously called to task, they invariably take refuge in a stolid silence. This attitude is maintained for a period, until it is believed their misrepresentations are forgotten; but they are sufficiently audacious to return again to the attack, and perpetrate similar offences. The same sensational paragraphs appear in certain newspapers, and the same virulent poison is disseminated.

It is as certain, however, as anything very well can be, that no cause can hope to succeed permanently if it must draw its inspiration from such an atmosphere. To ignore facts, and the basis of truth and experience upon which they rest, is merely to trifle with time and to forego those magnificent opportunities which give realism and life to all those deep concerns in which we profess to have an enduring interest. To adopt such an attitude is certainly not to be worldly wise ; it is bad business and even worse polemics, and those who follow such a course are assuredly courting disaster. (*To be continued.*)

WORCESTER COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

Speech Day at Worcester College for the Blind marked the 25th year since the college removed from Powick to its present buildings at Whittington and the 60th gathering of its kind in the history of the school. Lord Cobham, the chairman of governors, presided and said that the school, like others, was labouring under financial difficulties, but the governors were grappling with the problem. The school was the only institution of its kind in the world, and that it should be limited to 40 or 50 boys was unthinkable.

As we are about to go to Press, a longer notice is impossible at the moment.

THE COLLEGE AND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BLIND PERSONS



A PUBLIC meeting called by the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind was held in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind on Saturday afternoon, June 18th. The purpose of the meeting was to hear an address by Mr. J. C. Stobart, of the British Broadcasting Corporation, on the "Domain of Wireless"; but at the last moment the lecturer was unable to come, and his place was taken by an American visitor, Dr. Samuel P. Hayes, of Mount Holyoake College, Massachusetts, who spoke on various experiments with the blind in America. The chair was taken by Mr. Edward Evans.

In the course of his address Dr. Hayes said that his own particular line in the teaching of the blind was psychology. He thought that England had not gone quite so far in the way of standardising tests for the blind in schools as had America; at any rate, to judge from the number of publications in this field, America was far ahead. Last year one American publishing firm alone advertised that over 5,000,000 school children had been tested up to that date in their own particular tests. The procedure was as follows: It was ascertained on the basis of a very large number of experiments—a number large enough to exclude exceptional cases—what was the normal degree of capacity of a child of, for example, ten years of age in the way of arithmetic, reading, writing and other subjects. This "normal" having been established, it was applied in schools as a test in all kinds of directions, and the children were placed accordingly as up to, or below, or above standard. If the ascertainment of ability without such a standard were left to the individual teacher, his task was not only hard, but was likely to be influenced unconsciously by his like or dislike of a particular child. The standard test made it more possible to arrive at a correct estimation of the child's ability.

In the two big schools for the blind with which he had been connected, Dr. Hayes said that his work had been to adjust or adapt to the blind these tests which were the result of observation of sighted children. The results of that work had been presented to the public in a little manual of which he was the author. The idea was that, although the directors of education for the blind could not send their trained assistants to all the schools, they could, nevertheless, by means of such routine information and instruction, get the schools, even in the most widely separated places, to use uniform tests. To a certain extent this had been done. The teachers were using these tests, and had sent forward their results. Where did the blind stand in comparison with the sighted? He believed that on the basis of these reports the blind were shown to be at least two years retarded on the average; in a good many subjects the retardation was four years—that is to say, a blind person of 14 would be, in respect to these subjects, where a sighted person was at ten. This was the case as regards English composition, and obviously the reason was that blind children had far less material upon which to base their imaginative interpretations.

Another line of work was the testing of the intelligence of blind children. This was begun in America by Robert Irwin in 1914, and Dr. Hayes said that he had followed along the same lines. Careful tests had up to the present been made on over 1,500 such children, and as every test took upwards of an hour, some even one and a half hours, this represented a considerable amount of work. They were almost ready now to issue standards and to state what blind children ought to be able to do in intelligence tests at different ages.

A third general line in the States was an attempt to develop a psychology of blindness. The assumption was that if a person had had an unusual experience it would, in one way or another, affect his life, his character and his ability. If, for example, a man had had a tragedy of some sort, if he were in an automobile accident resulting in a great shock, or if he were disappointed in love—another kind of tragedy—he would be as a result in future not quite the same person as before; in some essential part of him he would be changed. What they had been trying to find out was the psychology of the blind from this point of

view ; to discover how the deprivation of the sense of sight affected a person psychologically. Obviously he would have a different sensory equipment. As regards the so-called sensory compensation, it was an interesting problem to discover whether the other senses took the place of vision. There was, too, the question of the warning sense. Was the sense of warning when approaching objects a new sense entirely peculiar to the blind, or was it a sense common to everybody but not used by sighted people ? Another question was that of a spatial perception. A person who had become blind might retain a memory which would give a more or less correct idea of space, but what idea of space could a person have who was born blind ? Some said that such a person could not have a space sense at all—that that which he depended on for his estimation was a time sense. Others took a different position. Then there was the question of memory. Was the memory of blind persons better or poorer than that of the sighted ? Were they specially good at remembering some things, and poor at remembering others ? It looked as if the memory of blind persons might be above normal in respect to numbers, repetitive ideas which followed in logical sequence. Again, how was the imagination affected ? How did persons born blind differ from those who had had vision and had been deprived of it ? Then there were those interesting experiences known as synthesesia, or a mixing of the senses. Some persons, for instance, experienced a colour sensation at certain sounds. There were people who, when they heard a name or a note on the organ, would think of a colour, and three notes on the organ would give them a fusion of colours. Thus one got into the region of the higher processes, and finally into the question of character traits, emotions and voluntary actions. Was a blind person more cheerful than a sighted person ? More dismal, more cranky, or more ready to co-operate ?

Interesting points were raised in the discussion which followed, particularly as regards the question of the sense of space. One speaker, Mr. W. H. Dixson, contended that the special sense alluded to by the lecturer was largely a matter of hearing. Mr. A. Siddall said that a blind person taken into a room, even one to which he was unaccustomed, would be able to say whether or not there was someone in that room, even if the person in question remained perfectly still. Dr. Hayes thought that one method by which the presence of a person in a room could be determined was by the sense of smell, which he maintained was the finest of all the organs. With regard to the warning sense of blind people, he said that he had read a great deal of literature on that subject. It was believed by some to be a complex of different sensations ; by others a new sense called the " x-sense " ; others again ascribed it to a part of the forehead which was specially sensitive to space and location. There was also the view that it was the pitch of tone as one went towards an object which indicated its location.

If one went straight to an object the pitch would rise quite suddenly, much as the sound rose if one poured water into a thermos bottle, whereas it would rise slowly if one approached the object from the side. There was a great deal about the internal ear which was not yet understood. One German investigator had said that in early childhood blind persons went about with their hands in front of them, using them like the feelers of an insect; and gradually they learned to know, from the way in which the echoes came and went, that there was something in front of them. He thought that when one became an adult the echoes served as distance indicators. In reply to a question whether a person could be deaf and still have the inner ear acting as a locator, Dr. Hayes said that he thought it quite possible. An interesting question was raised by Mr. Dixson as to whether education continued to develop the intelligence or only added to the sum of knowledge. Dr. Hayes said that with regard to education our intelligence was a matter chiefly of heredity, while our information was largely a matter of environment. The distance we got along in life depended upon a combination of the two. He said that intelligence seemed to develop up to about 16 years, and the unusual person went on developing intelligence for a couple of years longer. What went on after that was the accumulation of information. The rest was breadth, so to speak, rather than the vertical development which was called intelligence.

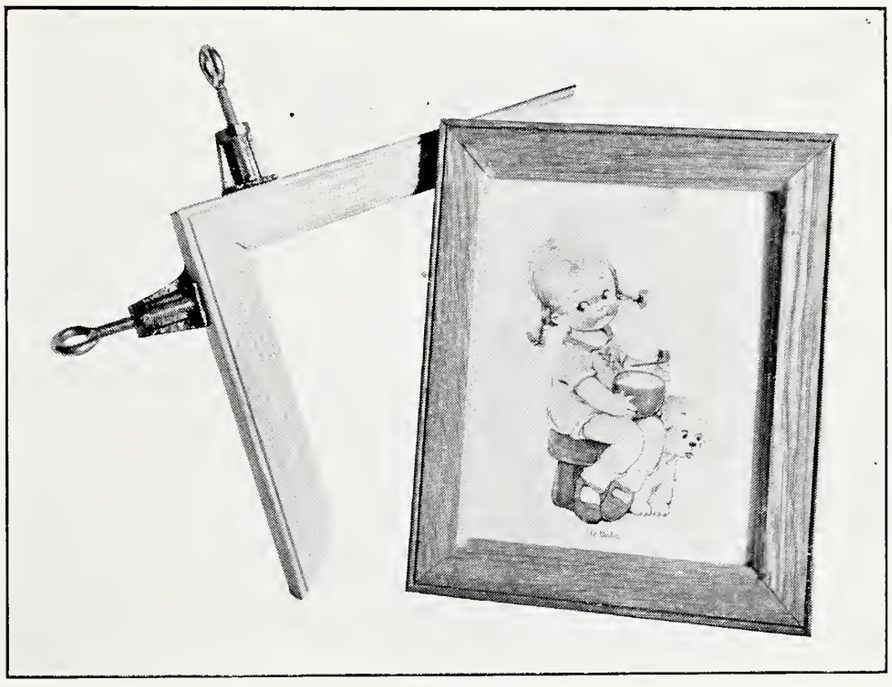
It was generally agreed that the discussion had been of a most stimulating nature, and a vote of thanks was accorded by the Chairman to Dr. Hayes, and a further vote of thanks was passed to the National Institute for the loan of the Hall.

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

PICTURE FRAMING



PICTURE framing is a branch of simple woodwork which is being successfully practised by blind workers. In common with the other kinds of woodwork dealt with in these articles, it requires some degree of natural aptitude and acquired skill; but, given these, the fact that the worker is sightless is no bar to success providing that he confines himself to simple, straightforward work, leaving such matters as the handling of ornate "compo" mouldings to the professional sighted worker. It is encouraging to note that the prevailing taste in picture frames as in other household furnishings is a simple one, hence the heavily-ornamented frame is no longer being allowed to outshine the picture to which it should be subordinate. Such frames are well suited to the art gallery; in the average home, however, they are as out of date as waxen fruit and antimacassars.



HALF OF FRAME IN MITRE CRAMP. PLAIN OAK FRAME (HEAVY MOULDING WAS USED FOR CLEARER REPRODUCTION; MOULDING HALF THE WIDTH SHOWN WOULD BE MORE SUITABLE).

One of the main difficulties confronting the blind woodworker is that of finishing his product, but in the case of picture framing this need not arise, as picture moulding can be procured in black, gilt and other finishes. The Imperial Moulding Works, Chestergate, Macclesfield, will send their catalogue of mouldings and other accessories on receipt of 4d. This firm makes an offer of moulding cut for a picture of any size, mitred and bored ready for making up, for a charge of a few pence above the actual cost of the moulding selected. Watkins, Provider, Newport, Mon., also issues an illustrated catalogue—an education in itself—which will be sent to any address on receipt of 2d. Finished picture moulding costs from about 2d. to 6d. per foot according to shape, size and finish. When selecting moulding, an important point to be borne in mind is this: that the under-side and outer-side of the moulding shall be flat and at right angles to each other, otherwise extra difficulties will be encountered in each part of the process.

Regarding glass for picture framing, the worker is advised to get this from a local glazier, cut to the size required. Other materials needed are: some ordinary screws about 1 in. in length, some picture-back sprigs, thin wood or stout cardboard for back-boards, liquid glue, plastic wood or putty, brown paper for pasting over back of picture, and, for hanging purposes, some picture rings and picture cord or chain.

The tools required are the following: a mitre box, a shooting board, a fairly long plane (preferably an iron one), a mitre cramp, a fairly long tenon saw, a screwdriver, rule, an iron or wood bench vice, a brace and bit, pair of pliers, marking knife, bradawl, paring chisel, and set square. This list may seem rather formidable; but, although all the tools mentioned are not absolutely essential, it is as well to have them if framing is to be done economically and well. Furthermore, their use is not confined to picture framing, and,

by judicious buying, the cost of the whole outfit need not exceed a pound. Handicrafts, Ltd., supply tools for the home woodworker at very moderate prices, and the writer has several tools purchased from a well-known sixpenny bazaar which have given satisfactory service for a number of years. Such tools would not long stand the hard and continuous service required by the professional worker, but they will satisfy our more limited demands admirably.

To proceed now to the actual framing : Let us suppose that a picture, say a mounted photograph, measuring 12½ ins. by 10 ins., is to be framed. The glass will be the same size as the picture, and so also will the backboard, namely 12½ ins. by 10 ins., and this, with about one-sixteenth of an inch added each way, will also be the rebate size of frame. The rebate is the right-angled section cut away from the moulding to hold the glass, picture, and backboard, and when the moulding is being cut up it is the rebate measurement which must be taken, not the inside or outside measurement. To cut the moulding the mitre box is held in the vice and the end of a length of moulding is placed against the right-hand saw cut, the moulding being held with the left hand firmly against near side of channel, rebate edge away from worker, and face of moulding uppermost. The saw is inserted in the cuts in mitre box, and the moulding cut through. Now place the glass (or a gauge cut to the same size) with its corner against the cut end of moulding immediately above the rebate, and slide moulding along to the right till other end of glass (resting above the rebate, not against inside of moulding) is on the line which will be taken by saw cut when saw is inserted in left-hand cuts of mitre box. Slide the moulding along a little further to allow for the extra sixteenth of an inch with a little over for planing, and cut through the moulding as before. Another piece is now cut to the same length, and then the two 10 in. pieces. The next process is that of " shooting " or planing the mitres, the moulding being held firmly against the stop of shooting board with the left hand, while the plane, with its cutting edge in a vertical position, is operated with the right. Having got the mitres true and each pair of sides accurately matched in length, a long and a short piece are brought together, given a coating of glue, and held in the mitre cramp till glue is thoroughly set. The cramp is then removed and a hole made with the bradawl partway across corner and at right angles to the joined edges. The bradawl is withdrawn, and the hole enlarged for a short distance with a suitable bit, so that when a screw is turned into the hole its head will sink quite out of sight. The hole is then filled with plastic wood or putty. The other two pieces are joined in the same way, and then the two halves of frame are joined together. The glass is now placed in the rebate, then the picture, and lastly the backboard, the latter being held in position by sprigs pushed in with the pliers. Lastly, a sheet of brown paper somewhat smaller than frame is damped with a wet cloth on one side, the back of frame is thinly coated with glue, and the paper placed in position with damped side uppermost, and rubbed all round edge till glue is dry, As the brown paper dries it will shrink and so become quite tight.

A. G. K.

Female Instructress required to instruct Blind Girls in Machine Knitting and Basket Making. Apply, stating age, experience and salary, to SECRETARY, Workshops for the Blind, Hanley.

A **Sighted Home Teacher** (Female) **wanted** (certificated preferred). Salary according to qualifications. Write SECRETARY, Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffs. Committee for the Care of the Blind, Victoria Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED—An Assistant **Knitting Instructress** for Home Industries Department, Redhill, Surrey. Thorough knowledge of Circular Knitting Machines essential. The appointment will be subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health, who will require the successful applicant to obtain the Home Teachers' Certificate within two years of the date of appointment. Apply stating age, experience and wages required to SECRETARY-GENERAL, National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

Capable sighted **Lady Home Teacher and Visitor** wanted. Apply stating age, experience and qualifications, together with copies of three recent testimonials to THE SECRETARY, Institution for the Blind, Albion Street, Leeds.

			s.	d.
7326-7329	"The Bride of Lammermoor," by Sir Walter Scott, Bart., 4 vols.	per vol.	9	3
7248	"The Death of the Lion" and "The Figure in the Carpet," from "The Lesson of the Master," by Henry James		6	6
7330-7333	"Kipps," by H. G. Wells, 4 vols.	per vol.	8	6
	JUVENILE—			
7068-7069	"The Princess and the Goblin," by George MacDonald, 2 vols.	per vol.	6	0
	POETRY—			
7655	"Epithalamion," by Edward Spenser		1	0
7657	"Goblin Market," by Christina Rossetti		1	0
6418	"Pippa Passes," by Robert Browning		4	0
	The Augustan Books of English Poetry, by Edward Thompson—			
7533	"Andrew Marvell"		1	9
	The Augustan Books of Modern Poetry, by Edward Thompson—			
7522	Edward Thomas		1	6
7523	Robert Bridges		1	3
7524	Christina Rossetti		1	6
7525	Humbert Wolfe		1	6
7526	Andrew Lang		1	9
7527	Alice Meynell		1	6
7528	Sir Edmund Gosse		1	9
7529	John Freeman		1	6
7530	John Davidson		1	6
7531	A Religious Anthology		1	9
7532	William Henry Davies		1	3
	MUSIC—THEORETICAL—			
7521	The Orchestra and The Military Band, by H. J. Taylor, F.R.C.O.		1	9

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Empire.

2379	Quarterly Intercession Paper (No. 105, 3rd Quarter, 1927)		5	6

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1.
LIST OF ADDITIONS
July, 1927.

FICTION.

*Ainsworth, H. Guy Fawkes	5 vols.
Albanesi, Madame. Roseanne	5 vols.
Bradby, G. F. Ginger and Co.	2 vols.
Brazil, Angela. For the School Colours	4 vols.
Canfield, D. The Home Maker	3 vols.
Cotton, C. Experience	4 vols.
Crofts, F. W. Inspector French's Greatest Case	4 vols.
Ertz, S. Madame Claire	4 vols.
Fletcher, J. S. Daniel Quayne	4 vols.
Harland, H. Mademoiselle Miss and other stories	2 vols.
Kearton, Cherry. My Happy Family	1 vol.
Knox, R. A. Viaduct Murder	3 vols.
Le Queux, W. The Fatal Face	4 vols.
Lucas, E. V. Vermillion Box	3 vols.
Orczy, Baroness. Celestial City	4 vols.
Wallace, E. Square Emerald	3 vols.
Webb, Mary. Precious Bane	5 vols.
Yates, D. Brother of Daphne	4 vols.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Grove, D. E. Apocalypse and Initiation	2 vols.
"Anon." John Wilhelm Rowntree	1 vol.
"Anon." Splendour of God	2 vols.
Carmichael, M. Solitaries of Sambucca	3 vols.
Cooke, Augusta. By Way of the East	4 vols.
Forde, G. M. Goodly Heritage (A simple Church History Story)	2 vols.
*Grogan, Lady. Life of J. D. Bourchier	6 vols.
Howell, O. S. Heredity and Reincarnation	1 vol.
London, Mrs. J. Jack London in the Southern Seas	3 vols.
Meynell, A. Poems	1 vol.
Morton, H. V. Nights of London	3 vols.
*Morris, Wm. Proud King (From The Earthly Paradise)	1 vol.
Walpole, Bishop. Undiscovered Country and the way to it	3 vols.
*West, A. S. Revised English Grammar for Beginners	
Whyte, A. Lord, Teach us to Pray (Sermons on Prayer)	4 vols.

GRADE I.

Harker, L. A. Broken Bow	4 vols.
Stories from Little People's Annual, published by Father Tuck	1 vol.

GRADE III.

Klickmann, F. Flower Patch among the Hills	3 vols.

* Presented by the National Institute for the Blind.

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the July Numbers)

Progress.—Custom and Customs in North Africa—The Story of Samuel Crompton—Eclipses in History—The Growth of Language—Correspondence—Our Prize Competition : Mental Pictures—Result of Cross-Word Puzzle—Matters of the Moment : Wireless for the Blind—Advertisements—Pen-Names—Hotels of the Air—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page : La Chauve-Souris—The Empty Chair. Supplements : "Progress" Chess ; Home Occupations for the Blind : Lady's Sleeveless Coat, Simple Knitted Border, Festoon Lace ; Announcements. ((Subscription : Inland and abroad : 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—The Twilight of the Augustans—The Mind of the Insect—The Influence of Carlyle—Hassan's Career—Lord Lansdowne—"From a Sequence"—Wit as Conversation's Salt—Book Reviews. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—The Motor Car and its Story : No. 2 : How the Motor Car grew up—The Best Thing (Poem)—The Sounds we hear and the Sounds we do not—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—The Mystery of the Lost Horses—Driving Evil out of the World. Supplements : "Comrades" ; Announcements ; Map of the Basin of the Mersey. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Charles Villiers Stanford—Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise"—Tuners' Column—New Organist of St. Paul's Cathedral—Obituary : Mr. Alfred Wrigley—Mind or Mechanics—The "Little Organ-Book" of Bach. Supplements : Braille Music Reviews ; Announcements ; Inset : Piano : "Etude de Concert," by Liszt. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 8s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—The Treatment of Infantile Paralysis (concluded)—Neuritis, Neurasthenia and Insomnia Treatment—Official Notices—The Influence of Ultra-Violet Radiation on Calcium and Phosphorus Metabolism in various Diseases (to be continued)—Supplements : "Massage Journal." Inset : Massage and Exercises during the Puerperium (continued) ; Official Notices ; Influence of Ultra-Violet Radiation (continued) ; Announcements. (Subscription : Inland and abroad : 6s. per annum, post free.)

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Resumé of Programmes Broadcast from Stations (England and Wales) of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—The Glacial Period—News Items—The Poet's Corner—Favourite Quotations—The Year 1920, and After—Textile Weaving for Blind Men—Advertisements and General Notices—The Ecliptic—The Future of "The Tribune"—Humble Crumbs. Supplements : Literary : "Masters of English Prose—George Borrow," Mr. Nigel Playfair. Music : History of a Song : "The Better Land," by A. B. Cooper. Piano : "Spring Song," by Mendelssohn. Announcements. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—The Oldest Ambulance Station in Europe (St. Martin's Review)—The Doll's House—An Adventure in a Basket—A Woman alone with Blacks—Gabriel Samara, Book 1, Chapters 20-22, by E. Phillips Oppenheim—New Light of Asia—A Bird Columbus—Thought for the Month—Magic in the Desert (The Daily Express)—Bitten by Dead Snake (The Daily Mail)—The Umbrella Man on the Congo (Children's Newspaper)—Flesh and Blood for his Friend. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 1s. 8d. per month, post free.)

The Seeker.—The Mystery Teaching of the Bible : IX : Initiation : The Attainment, by Daisy E. Grove—The Dramatic History of the Christian Faith : VII : Origin, the Initiate in the Mysteries of Jesus—Christian Mystics : William Blake, by W. P. Swainson—The Bow in the Clouds : V : Simon the Pharisee, by H. Osmond Anderton—Seeing God : Foreword and Heirs of God, by the Ven. Basil Wilberforce, D.D.—Buddhism : II : The Three Signs of Being.

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription : 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription : 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

Moon Magazine.—Narain Singh Bahadur, by Garstin Begbie (Chambers's Journal)—Little old Mr. Pirt, by Charles Divine (Cassell's Magazine)—Out of Bounds—Once upon a Time—Telephoning to a Dog (Subscription : Inland and abroad. 9s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1927

SEPTEMBER Vol. XI No. 129

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire. The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	CHURCH—		
7941	" I Follow Thee also," Soprano Air from " St. John Passion," by Bach (B flat : Compass D to A′ flat), pocket size	2	0
7942	" Come, ever smiling Liberty " (for two Sopranos), from " Judas Maccabæus," by Handel, pocket size	2	0
	ORGAN—		
7943	Sonata No. 6 in G, Vol. 1, by Bach (Bar by bar)	2	0
7944	" Chelsea Fayre," by R. Goss-Custard (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7945	Andante in D, by Hollins (Bar by bar)	2	0
7946	" A Summer Idyll," by J. A. Meale (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7947	" From Hebrid Seas " (Celtic Suite), by J. Nesbitt (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	4
7948	Selection from " Lohengrin," Act I, by Wagner (arr. by Pearce), (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO—		
7949	Fantasia in C minor, by Bach (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7950	" Burlesque," by Arnold Bax (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7951	Three Serious Dances, Op. 51, by York Bowen (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7952	Irish and Welsh Tunes (for Young Pianists), by Adam Carse (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7953	Variations on a theme by Glinka, Op. 35, by A. Liadow (Bar by bar), pocket size	3	0
7954	" Birds in the Wood " (Five Easy Dances), by Ernest Newton (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7955	" Menuet Antique," by Ravel (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7956	" In an Eastern Garden " (from " The Garden of Allah "), by Landon Ronald (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7957	Four Little Tunes, by G. F. Tomlinson (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7958	" Zoological Comicalities " (Six Pieces), by Olive Turner (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	DANCE—		
7959	" Crazy Words—Crazy Tune," Song Fox-Trot, by M. Ager (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7960	" Half a Moon is Better than No Moon," Song Fox-Trot, by Reynolds, Dowling and Hanley (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7961	" So Blue," Song-Waltz, by B. de Sylva (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7962	" Side by Side," Song Fox-Trot, by H. Woods (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
7963	" Creation's Hymn," by Beethoven (A flat : Compass A, to E′)	2	0
7964	" The End of the Road," by W. Dillon and H. Lauder (A : Compass A, to E′), pocket size	2	0
7965	" Nazareth " (Sacred), with Harmonium Obbligato, by Gounod (E flat : Compass B, to F′), pocket size	2	0
7966	" A Little Cock Sparrow and The Curtsy " (Action Songs), by Hilda M. Grieveson, pocket size	2	0
7967	" A Piper," by Michael Head (D minor, Compass C to E′), pocket size	2	0
7968	" Irish Love Song," by Alicia A. Needham (E flat : Compass B, natural to F′), pocket size	2	0
7969	" Hark ! The Echoing Air," from " The Fairy Queen," by Purcell (B flat : Compass D to G′), pocket size	2	0
7970	" Pass, Everyman ! " by Sanderson (A : Compass C natural to E′), pocket size	2	0
7971	" Margaret," by Schubert (D minor : Compass E to A′), pocket size	2	0
	DUET—		
7972	" John, come kisse me now " (Dialogue between husband and wife), Arr. by E. W. Naylor, pocket size	2	0
	THEORY—		
7973	Modern Instrumentation for String, Military and Brass Bands, by J. Fitz-Gerald	7	1

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Empire.

2588-2595	"The Sea Hawk," by Rafael Sabatini, 8 vols. (limited edition)	per vol. 12	0
2368	St. John, Chapter 4 (Giant type)	3	6
2369	St. John, Chapter 5 (Giant type)	3	6

(Continued on page 16)

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XI.—NO. 129. SEPTEMBER, 1927. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

ANNUAL REPORT



AGAIN the Annual Report of the National Institute for the Blind forms a veritable guide to the position of the sightless in modern life. For the second time this Report takes the form of an illustrated book dealing with the occurrences that have taken place during a period of twelve months, and casts valuable light upon the general position of the blind men, women and children in this country. From the blind babies at the Sunshine Homes to the old men and women in the homes and hostels, there is no group of sightless people that does not come within the reach of the Institute. To help these people in every possible way, to provide for their education and their recreation is, as it ever has been, the aim of this Institution, which offers its warm thanks to those who have assisted its manifold activities by gifts of money and in countless kindly ways.

Unification of Collections.

Reviewing the question of organised collecting for the blind, we find that the scheme alluded to in the last Report for reconstructing the Institute's Council on a more representative basis has materialised, 17 additional members having been appointed to the Council. Most of these new members are now serving on the Institute's various committees. The first duty of the new Council was to appoint a committee to deal with the unification of collections. In brief, the aim of this Committee was to arrange two standard forms of agreement between the Institute and any local agency by which money-raising in a certain area should be undertaken either by the Institute or by the local agency, in each case the money collected being allocated in agreed proportions to national and to local work. Arrangements of such a nature had already been concluded by the old Council with various agencies, to which others have now been added.

In consequence of the new agreements, four branch offices of the Institute have been closed, viz., the South Yorkshire, South Wales, South-Eastern and South Midland branches, the South Yorkshire area being now amalgamated with North Yorkshire to form the Yorkshire area, with one office at Leeds. To control the working of the branches, there has been appointed a Northern, an Eastern and a Southern Committee composed of members of the Executive Council resident in the respective areas, with power to co-opt others. A committee has been appointed to examine the organisation of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, and to formulate proposals which may bring it into line with the other agreements.

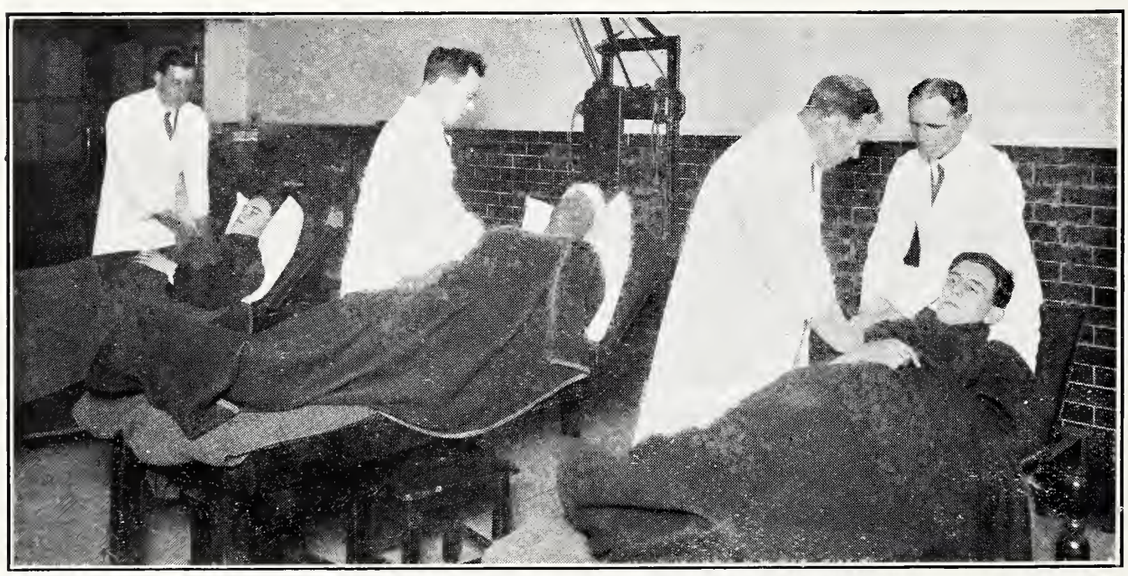
Speaking of the unification scheme as a whole, the Council are satisfied with the progress made. Many negotiations are still in progress, but it is indisputable that the conclusion of each agreement marks a further advance in the effort all parties are making to

serve the blind of this country to the best of their ability. Individual allocations made under the percentage agreements during 1926-7, together with the fixed grants and special grants made during the same period in accordance with the Institute's policy for many years, totalled £22,530.

A Brief Review of Work in the Various Departments.

Embossed Literature. In reviewing singly the many activities of the Institute, we find that the production of Braille and Moon has proceeded most satisfactorily. A very considerable quantity of the best literature of all kinds has been added to the catalogue, or is now passing through the Press. The number of Braille publications issued during the period under review, including bound volumes, book pamphlets, instruction cards, alphabets, magazines and newspapers, was 334,122. The number of Braille book-plates produced was 22,266. Moon publications, including bound volumes, book pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, alphabets, etc., were 58,699, and the number of Moon book-plates 5,881. The embossed periodicals continue to enjoy extensive popularity, and letters are constantly received from blind readers testifying to the pleasure which they derive from their perusal. This year a new publication has seen the light of day, viz., the "Braille Radio Times." The need for a reliable programme in Braille of the items broadcast from the stations of the B.B.C. was undoubted, the only difficulty being the necessary plant for its production. Thanks to the helpfulness of the B.B.C., an appeal was made on the wireless by Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, and was readily responded to by "listeners-in." "The Braille Radio Times" thus became an accomplished fact, and 1,500 copies are being sold weekly, the circulation increasing with every issue.

A new illustration of the elasticity of the Braille system is the completion of a Braille phonetic code for use in the transliteration of works in modern languages, a special sub-committee having been appointed to find Braille equivalents for the symbols of the international system. Amongst publishing work now contemplated is that of a new series of scientific text books. Progress has been made with the new portable Braille edition of the Authorised Version of the Holy Scriptures, and the work is now nearing completion. Steady progress is also being made in the replacement of worn plates in the Moon edition of the Bible. Recently a work of considerable importance was undertaken, viz., the revision of the catalogue of Braille publications. The amount of new literature had been so considerable of late that it was necessary to effect a clearance of out-of-date works or those no longer in demand. In order to do this the old stock was given away, to the advantage of a number of readers. The policy of issuing a limited edition of Moon books has been continued, and a new Moon edition of the Collects, Epistles and Gospels, and of the Prayer-Book Psalms (Church of England) is being published weekly in loose-leaf sections.



A Practical Class at the Institute's School of Massage; the Instructor is himself blind

MANUSCRIPT DEPARTMENT. The work of the Manuscript Department continues unabated. During the year nearly 800 new volumes have been prepared by volunteer Braille writers, and the total number of books in the Students' Library now amounts to nearly 5,000, representing a value of approximately £11,000.

MUSIC. The output of Braille music during the year was as follows :—

Music Plates Embossed	1,959
Music Volumes, Collections of Pieces, Text-Books, etc., published ..	1,152
Music Pamphlets published	10,491

A complete sectional catalogue in Braille of the Institute's music publications is now available. The initiation of a Music Students' Library on lines somewhat similar to the General Students' Library is recorded, and should prove of immense value to the music student. The recently-published Braille edition of the new students' manual, "Elementary Lessons and Exercises on Revised Braille Music Notation," by Edward Watson, brings to a conclusion the task begun by the Braille Music Revision Committee appointed in 1912. Mention has from time to time been made of the booklets of carols written and composed by the blind. Each new series has been well received and rendered by choirs all over the country, and a special booklet has been prepared for Christmas, 1927, consisting of twelve of the most popular carols in the former booklets. Organ recitals and lectures have been given during the year in London and the provinces, nine blind organists and thirty-six blind vocalists participating. In concluding the brief survey of the work of this department, it should not be forgotten that the Institute continues to receive orders for blind pianoforte tuners.



PUPILS AT CHORLEY WOOD COLLEGE ENJOYING A WALK IN THE GROUNDS

MASSAGE. The Massage Department registers a successful year. Four men and two women students presented themselves for examination in massage, medical gymnastics and medical electricity, and all qualified successfully. Two other men students qualified in massage and medical electricity. The four Gardner Trust Scholarships were all awarded during the year. At present 13 men students and one woman student are in training at the Massage School, and an interesting development has taken place in the Medical Electricity Department. Blind students are now allowed to attend at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, to carry out electrical treatments on the patients, under medical supervision. In this way valuable experience will be gained by blind students undergoing training. Male students are able to carry out treatments on patients in the Massage Department of the Middlesex Hospital, under medical supervision, and a similar privilege has been accorded to the women students by the authorities of St. George's Hospital.

CHORLEY WOOD COLLEGE. Coming now to educational work, we find that the year at Chorley Wood College has been summed up as one of steady progress in all directions. There were new junior pupils during the year, including a little girl of six, whilst several seniors moved on towards wider careers. One is now working for a degree at St. Andrew's University, and two have started Massage training, whilst a fourth has found a good market for her handicraft work. One student obtained a place in the Girton College Scholarship and Entrance Examination sufficiently high to secure a vacancy at Girton next October. There has been a full programme of lectures and entertainments, and the girls have shown both initiative and skill in the performance of a play and in the composition of pieces of music and of prose and verse for the College magazine.

Sunshine Homes. The Institute's three Sunshine Homes continue to be of vital importance to the blind community. The games and lessons are entered into with zest by the tiny children, as is testified by letters from kindergarten teachers at Chorley Wood, Southport and Leamington. The importance of these early teachings has often been touched upon in these pages, and is indeed a matter which cannot be over-emphasised. It is reassuring to be told that the Board of Education permit children to remain in the Homes up to the age of seven years in cases which the Institute considers necessitate such retention. The Report points out that it is impossible to estimate the number of future blind babies, which, fortunately, appears to be decreasing. Should, however, the case prove to be the reverse, and the accommodation required exceed that now available, steps will be taken to establish a fourth Home.



A Romp in the Garden at Sunshine House, Leamington Spa

Homes and Hostels. Favourable reports have been received from the Institute's homes and hostels.

Greater London Fund. We now come to the money-raising work of the Greater London Fund for the Blind. The period under review comprises the time of the coal and general strikes. These had a very serious effect upon the regular income of the Fund. Geranium Day had to be postponed, and this great annual event was held at a time of unrest and in bad weather, resulting in a total of £8,185, which was a reduction of £943 from that of the previous year. Valuable service has been rendered by the Ladies' Committee, the Theatrical Committee, and the officials and members of circles of "Helpers of the Blind" in all parts of London, and those of the Printing and Kindred Trades Blind Aid Committee. The value of the Fund's work is pointed out by the following instances :—

1. Twenty years ago the average wage earned by the blind was somewhere about 15/- per week. Last year the average payment per week to blind men was £2 3s. 2d., and to blind women £1 15s. 4d.

2. When the Fund was opened 525 workers were employed in the institutions concerned. Last year the number was 792, and in addition 82 were employed in their own homes under the Home Workers' Scheme carried out by two of the participating institutions.

3. Six years ago only about 100 blind women were employed, whereas the number now employed is approximately 350.

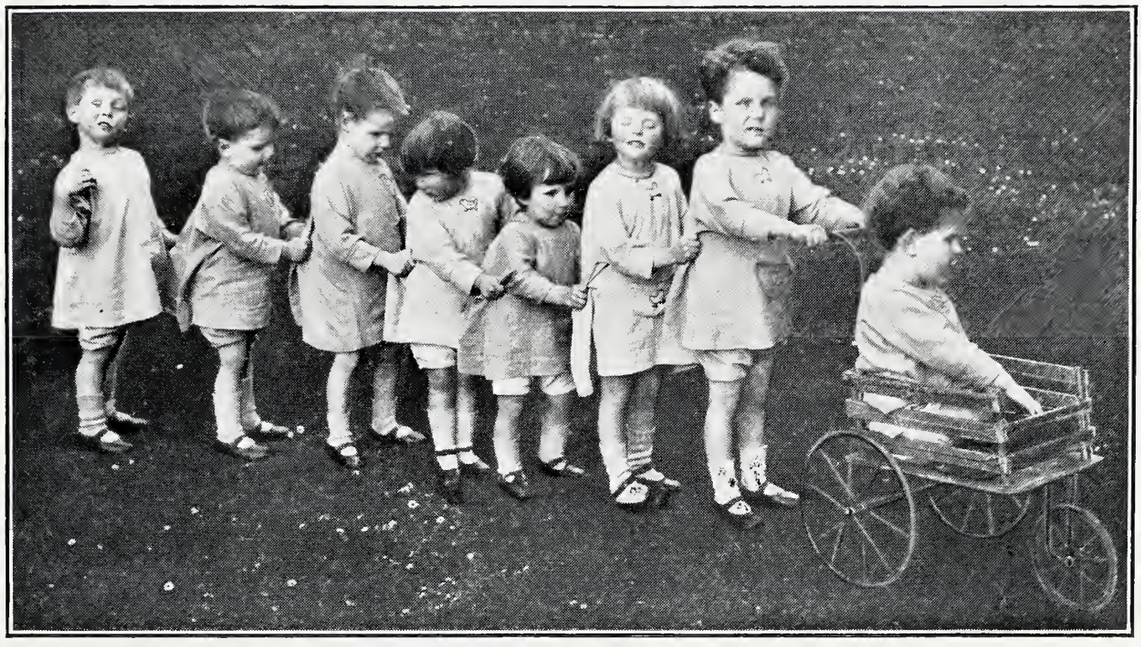
After-Care. A rich measure of successful effort is reported from the After-Care Department. Though in many directions the Institute's activities have undergone changes necessitated by the regulations of the Ministry of Health, the administration generally has been improved, and the closest co-operation maintained with agencies for the blind throughout the country. Broadly speaking, the Institute only administers relief with the knowledge and consent of the local agencies, and employs, as far as is possible, the machinery at the disposal of these organisations for this purpose, thereby avoiding overlapping and guaranteeing, in consequence, efficient administration. During the past year 520 new cases were reported to the Institute, and satisfactory treatment was accorded to them, either by the Institute or jointly as between the appropriate local association and this organisation. The amount expended in relief during the period under review was £4,930, in addition to which £3,717 was paid in augmentation of wages, and a further sum of £418 was expen-

ded on wireless equipment for the blind. The grants for higher education amounted to £1,054; trade training fees were £265, and the sum expended from the Ex-Service Men's Fund was £1,633. Fourteen persons were supplied with dentures, and a number with various surgical instruments. In addition to a considerable number of Christmas gifts provided by the Institute's Branches, 672 parcels were despatched from Headquarters.

Ex-Service Men's Fund. This Fund now helps some 200 men. Those assisted include blind ex-service men who, for one reason or another, are ineligible for help by St. Dunstan's, and who have no pension on account of blindness. Letters of gratitude are constantly received from men who have been set up in business and assisted in other ways.

Home Industries. The Institute's Home Industries' Scheme is progressing satisfactorily. During the past year 198 blind men and women have been helped in their efforts to earn a livelihood. The Minister of Health has expressed keen appreciation of the success which has attended this section of the Institute's work. In spite of industrial unrest, trade has expanded, and the sales attained the record amount of £10,000, an increase of £2,500 from those of last year. Exhibitions of goods have taken place, also sales of work, and the motor travelling shop has done good business. The Institute has purchased goods from home workers to the value of £3,700, and has also placed orders with many workshops for the blind in various parts of the country amounting in value to £3,352. All grants received from County and County Borough Councils (amounting last year to £2,771) have been expended in augmenting the earnings of the home workers in the stipulated areas. The sum of £410 has been expended during the past year in providing equipment, and gifts of materials to the value of £108 have been made to necessitous cases.

Technical and Research Work. The Institute's Technical and Research work is growing apace, and many interesting developments are taking place, thanks to the untiring labours of the Technical and Research Committee. Some of the work of this Department has consisted in the remodelling of Braille stereotyping machines, the production of limited editions of Braille books, the adaptation of games for the blind, and a new process of map embossing. A thermometer with a dial divided by embossed dots is a recent addition. Each month numerous inventions are submitted to the Committee—a proof that the blind are setting their brains to work in the right direction.



A Group of typical "Sunshine Babies"

Wireless for the Blind. The significance of wireless in the blind world has become more and more apparent. What with the provision of embossed literature and the wireless, there is no longer any necessity for a blind person to sit in loneliness and darkness. As the Report remarks, " There is every prospect that

the provision to the blind of all wireless facilities, such as sets, programmes, technical information, supervision, etc., will eventually become one of the most necessary and useful of all national services for the blind." The granting of free licences and the publication of the "Braille Radio Times" are proving an inestimable boon to blind people, and the Institute is doing its best to meet the very urgent need for wireless sets. As a result of appeals 362 wireless sets and 180 headphones have been received, and the Institute has been able, with the help of the various local agencies, to distribute 796 wireless sets and 1,040 headphones to the blind throughout the country.

Home Teaching Society. As reported last year, this Society has been handed over to newly-formed local associations for the blind. The sum of £921 has been expended by the Institute in allowances to a number of blind home teachers, all with many years of loyal service to their credit, who have been thrown out of employment by the new arrangement.



Loading a Royal Mail Van with Bags of Braille Literature for Despatch all over the World

College and Association of Teachers of the Blind. The Institute continues to assist the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind by affording office accommodation and clerical help. The Assistant Secretary of the Institute is the Honorary Registrar of the College. Arrangements have been made for the Institute to provide sighted candidates for the College's Home Teachers' Examination with postal lessons in Braille at a fee of £1 1s. for a course not exceeding three months.

Following on a review of the Institute's various departments are some general articles which give in detail the workings of its different committees. The different aspects of educational work, which are under the ægis of the Education Committee, are given. It is pointed out that each individual case which comes before this Committee must be examined from three points of view, as follows :

1. Are there still defects of blindness to be overcome ?

2. Are there as yet definite qualities or abilities to be ascertained or instilled ?

3. Is there any outstanding ability to be nourished ?

It is pointed out that the scope of the work of the Education Committee extends more or less to every activity of the Institute.

The Institute's Publications Committee is concerned with the selection of matter to be put into Braille, including literature, music, catalogues, etc. It supervises periodicals and newspapers, and is concerned with the selection of maps and diagrams.

The Technical and Research Committee's work has already been touched upon, and a very important Committee has recently come into being consisting of an Appointments Board which deals with the question of placing blind persons in ordinary factories which employ, in the usual course of events, only sighted labour. The work of this Board was entered into fully in the last number of *The Beacon*, and further interesting details will be found in the Report.

The work of the Homes Committee covers a very wide field, as blind babies, the adult blind and the aged blind all come within its scope. Its main duty is to control and administer the homes in such a fashion as to obtain a maximum result at a minimum expenditure, and to see that the homes are administered in a wide and liberal manner so that they may benefit the blind nationally, and at the same time better the lot of every individual resident at any time in the homes.

In closing this brief review of the Institute's activities, we would again lay stress on one of the most important developments of the year, that of wireless for the blind, which will, we feel sure, continue to widen the blind man's outlook to a very appreciable extent. The cover of the Report bears a photograph of a blind man "listening-in." Under it are the following words :—

"His own—despite the sightless eyes—
The thrill of throngs, the voices of the nations,
And every treasure of the wide world's heart."

These words are symbolical of the widening knowledge which is coming to the blind, and of their consequent deeper appreciation of life and all its wonders.



Blind Employees on the Roof of the Institute's Headquarters in Great Portland Street, London

REPORT OF THE MOON SOCIETY

The report of the Moon Society is also to hand, and shows continued activity in this branch of the National Institute for the Blind. The year's output of Moon works has been alluded to in the General Report, the details being as follows :—

Bound volumes, 4,295 ; Pamphlets, 16,685 ; Magazines, 2,804 ; Newspapers, 14,936 ; Supplements, 11,656 ; Alphabets, 5,640 ; Miscellaneous leaflets, 6,978 ; Pages of type set, 5,881.

The number of pages of Moon type set shows an increase on the previous year's production of 554 pages, or 10 per cent. The book production shows a small decrease, but the output of pamphlets, etc., shows a large increase.

Since the foundation of the Moon Society in 1847 to the 31st March, 1927, 182,832 book plates and pages of type have been prepared, and 651,106 volumes and pamphlets have been produced. The two periodicals published in Moon type, namely, the Moon Magazine and the Moon Newspaper, continue to be enjoyed by their readers. The Magazine contains short stories and articles, and the Newspaper, which, in addition to its résumé of the news of the world, has an American supplement, has been described as a masterpiece of compression.

The report states that there is a growing demand for new Moon literature, and libraries for the blind, which cater for the needs of the blind throughout the world, are asked to order as many copies of each work as possible, and thus help the Society to maintain a plentiful supply of new works at a minimum cost. Due publicity is given several months before going to press, so that everyone who desires can place orders ; but no further copies are available after a specified date, as, when the edition is printed, the type is distributed.

OBITUARY

Sir ROBERT ELLIS CUNLIFFE, M.A.

IT is with deep regret that we announce the death at the age of 69 of Sir Robert Ellis Cunliffe, whose long association with work for the blind has been recorded in these pages. Sir Robert was born in 1858, and was educated at Bradfield College, and Corpus Christi, Oxford. On leaving Oxford, he was articled to a member of his father's firm and was admitted a solicitor in 1884, shortly afterwards joining the firm then known as Cunliffes and Davenport. In 1900 he became the Solicitor to the Board of Trade, a post which he held for twenty years. He received the honour of knighthood in 1911.

His earlier work for the blind was chiefly that connected with the Kensington Institute for the Blind, which in 1903 became known as the West London Workshops for the Blind, and in 1922 became amalgamated with the London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind, Swiss Cottage. Sir Robert became Chairman of the London Society in the following year.

He was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, a member of the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties' Association for the Blind, and in 1926 he was selected by that Association to be one of its representatives, and nominated by the Ministry of Health as a member of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind. He took the greatest interest in all matters pertaining to legislation for the blind, and his advice as a solicitor was invaluable.

He was Chairman of the Kensington, Fulham and Chelsea General Hospital, a member of the Governing Council of Bradfield College, and was also deeply interested in Church affairs as well as in educational matters.

His loss will be greatly felt by all who knew him, and we tender our sincere sympathy to Lady Cunliffe and her family.

* * *

Mr. HENRY TAAFFE

ON the 14th of June last there passed to his rest, at the age of 61, Henry Taaffe, organist for 25 years of the Parish Church of Cotteridge, King's Norton. Mr. Taaffe met with an accident last year, from the effects of which he never recovered. A blind musician of considerable attainments, he was one of the many who in a quiet but convincing way have once more demonstrated that the sightless can hold their own with the sighted in many departments of the great world of music, and notably as organists and choirmasters. The Vicar adds his testimony to the ability and distinction with which he served the Church of St. Agnes, Cotteridge, and to the way he "used his powers and opportunities for the spiritual uplift of the people." R.I.P.

ORGAN APPOINTMENT

MR. P. T. DEAN, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., who was a pupil at Henshaw's Institution and at the Royal Normal College, has been appointed organist of Oxshott Parish Church, Surrey, a post previously held by a blind organist, Miss Clara Gould, who was trained at Leatherhead School for the Blind.

BLAKE CENTENARY

ON the 12th ult., the centenary of William Blake, the painter, poet and mystic, was celebrated at Bunhill Fields, City Road, London, where his grave lies.

Members of the Blake Society, men of letters, and many Blake lovers gathered round the grave to sing the praises of the poet and his wife, "his dearest friend," who lies buried near by.

The choir from the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, sang settings of Blake verses, including two musical versions of "Jerusalem."

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
	ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE.	
Lloyd's Bank, Ltd.	How to use a Bank	1
	HISTORY.	
O'Neill, E.	Mary, Queen of Scots	1
	MODERN LANGUAGES.	
Ripman, W. (Ed. by).	Der Goldene Vogel	2
Sand, George.	La Petite Fadette	2
	PHILOSOPHY.	
Mullins, J.	Riddle of Justice	2
	POETRY AND DRAMA.	
Johnson, Goldsmith, Gray, and Collins (Ed. by T. Methuen Ward),	Poems	4
Tchehov, A.	The Sea-Gull	1
Villiers, G. (Ed. by E. Arber).	The Rehearsal ...	2
	POLITICAL SCIENCE.	
Beaverbrook, Lord.	Politicians and the Press ...	1
Finer, H.	Foreign Governments at Work	1
Kropotkin, Prince.	Conquest of Bread	4

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)



SO far as we have proceeded with these discussions it will be generally agreed that substantial progress has been recorded since the year 1920.

There is no aspect of our problem which has been entirely neglected, though perhaps some spheres of the work may have received less attention than their real importance would seem to merit. Nevertheless, progress has been very real and substantial, so that we may very well proceed to concentrate upon such matters as are urgently requiring treatment.

It is a consideration much to be deplored, I think, that no entirely satisfactory or uniform system of augmenting wages has yet been devised or agreed upon. Taking thirty workshops for the blind in England and Wales with a view to an examination of their wage systems, it is found that twelve different methods prevail. Doubtless, for each of such systems some special merit is claimed, and each contains, probably, some redeeming characteristic which is not embodied in the rest. It is true also that the personal equation exercises some influence by reason of the fact that the particular system owes its inception to the genius of the master mind by which it has been shaped and brought into being. These arrangements continue notwithstanding the fact that they are strangely out of harmony with the real requirements of to-day, and though they may lack every semblance of scientific authority.

It has been one of my duties of late to study closely these variations in the method and treatment of wage conditions, and I regret to say that the present situation is one of absolute chaos, resulting, as it seems to me, in a large measure from a want of knowledge concerning the arrangements that are in operation in neighbouring and kindred establishments. It would be unkind to ascribe the present situation to other motives, though one sometimes feels that the attitude of independence and isolation claimed by certain authorities is responsible for conditions which ought to be avoided.

Within recent years, representative people from the industrial institutions have not been very much in conference, and, as a consequence, they have rather lost touch with each other, and all the tendencies, unfortunately, are so to drift as to permit each to become a law unto himself.

I am quite certain, however, that the majority do not desire this isolation, for viewed apart entirely from wage conditions, there are many matters, both in principle and practice, which they ought to have in common and concerning which a little more ventilation would be helpful and healthy for all these interests.

I am more than favourably impressed by the fact that the County Associations meet in conference at regular intervals for the purpose of comparing notes, and I am assured by those who are competent to express decisive and well-considered opinions that the results have abundantly justified the expenditure incurred. It is certainly not less important that workshop authorities should meet periodically with a view to conferring on matters of mutual interest: such conferences could not fail to produce practical and beneficial results. There are conferences we should all strive to avoid, the mere excursions which resolve themselves into joy rides and which, at the best, become mere talking shops. At all times these expeditions ought to be avoided, but in days of financial stringency they are unpardonable. Obviously, however, there are occasions when, in the common interest, we are required to pool our experiences in order that the most approved methods may be employed in providing a solution of our problems. Southey very appropriately observes:

"My never-failing friends are they
With whom I converse day by day.
With them I take delight in weal,
And seek relief in woe;
And while I understand and feel
How much to them I owe,
My cheeks have often been bedew'd
With tears of thoughtful gratitude."

It has sometimes been argued, not very convincingly, I think, that it is a matter of very little consequence that there should be a great divergence in the methods and practices obtaining in our industrial institutions, and that

the payment of subsidies, varying in amount, is not in itself of great importance; but surely those who contend this cannot seriously have considered the evils to which such divergences give rise. The justifiable discontent occasioned by such variations is a matter which claims the attention of thoughtful people; for we are bound in honour and equity alike to examine all reasonable causes of friction, and, as far as we can, it is surely right to strive for their removal.

It is proposed then briefly to examine the various wage systems prevailing, and also, in the light of ascertained knowledge and experience, to investigate certain untried theories, not necessarily with a view to laying down hard and fast laws, but rather with the intention of promoting a clearer understanding of the many and diverse conditions by which wages in our special institutions are now influenced.

Let it be understood then that we must first differentiate as between pure economic terms and phrases employed merely for convenience. It will perhaps be sufficient here to say that the term " wages " is understood to represent the agreed equivalent for some form of service, and that all supplementary allowances, not having an economic basis, are classified as " grants in aid " or " supplements," and it is, therefore, in the relative senses herein indicated that we employ the above-mentioned terms.

It may be objected that our definition of wages does not carry us far enough, and this is at once admitted if it were intended to propound abstruse economic theory. For the purposes we have in mind, however, the definition will hold good. There is no phrase in the " Dismal Science " that is more common and familiar than the term " wages." The word is the plural of " wage," and would appear to be derived from the old Latin word *wadium*, meaning a pledge; hence the modern construction which implies that the wage is a reward for one's services. It is not unreasonable to assume that the origin of the word and its interpretation as a pledge dates back to the manorial system when tenants in villeinage, whether villeins or cottars, were pledged to plough or to reap, or to do some other agricultural work for three or four days in the week, or at fixed times, such as harvest, for the Lord of the Manor as payment in lieu of rent. The simple definition we here employ will, therefore, suffice for our purpose, probably read in conjunction with a modern dictionary explanation. The Oxford dictionary says " A wage is an amount paid periodically, by the day or week or month, for the time during which workman or servant is at employer's disposal." For services rendered, then, the wage is an agreed equivalent, so that whenever we are discussing this problem, it will be understood that all augmentation grants or supplements are extraneous forms of help merely provided because the guaranteed wage is insufficient to secure food, clothing, shelter and the many subsidiary requirements which go to make life tolerable.

(*To be continued.*)

ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

HIS Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught distributed the prizes at the Royal Normal College for the Blind at Upper Norwood on July 12th, and made an eloquent appeal on behalf of that institution. In the course of his address he said that he had been greatly pleased to witness such an interesting ceremony. Pupils came from all parts of the Empire to learn at that institution, and, after leaving, the College obtained employment which provided not only for their livelihood, but often also for the livelihood of their parents. He regretted that the report showed a deficiency on the year's work, and he made a very strong appeal for assistance for the various needs of the College, wishing them every possible success. Lord Howard de Walden moved a vote of thanks, which Lord Lamington seconded, three hearty cheers being given for the Duke.

Assembled at tables on the lawn were a number of pupils, and classes were held in nature study, geography, shorthand and typewriting and kindergarten work. Dancing and folk dancing followed, also a scout display, marching and mass exercises, as well as exhibitions of diving, swimming and life-saving. Preceding and after the presentation ceremony, a well-sustained and excellent programme consisting of glees, choruses, songs and pianoforte solos was given by the pupils.

You will never find time for anything. If you want time, you must make it.—

CHARLES BUXTON

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

ROBERT B. IRWIN, M.A.



ORK for the blind in America is always followed with the deepest interest in this country. Recently we have been greatly pleased to receive a visit from a director of the American Foundation for the Blind, whose work—in many instances pioneer work — has proved of inestimable benefit to many fellow sufferers in his own country.

Let us introduce to you Mr. Robert B. Irwin, now of Montclair, New Jersey, who has been "looking at things" on this side, and has, let us hope, taken with him the record of a pleasant and instructive journey.



Mr. Robert B. Irwin, M.A.

Born in 1883 at Rockford, Iowa, where his father was a chemist, the subject of this biography became blind at the age of five. When he was a tiny boy his parents, seeking to improve their position, moved to the then Territory of Washington, where they settled on Puget Sound. The settlement consisted of a few homesteads of 160 acres which the inhabitants cultivated and developed, and which became their own property after the lapse of five years. So tiny was this particular little colony that it boasted neither post office nor store. To procure the services of a doctor or to get to the nearest grocery-store, you had to take a row boat and set out on a three days' journey, and Mr. Irwin's mother was at the time the only woman within an area of ten or twelve miles.

The Irwin family lived on their little homestead for a number of years and then moved to the City of Tacoma, where Mr. Irwin, senr., again took up the business of a chemist. The lad was sent to the Washington State School for the Blind when he was seven years old, graduating thence in 1901. Wishing to enter the University of Washington in Seattle he worked as a travelling salesman during the summer and accumulated sufficient money to pay for his board and lodging at College in the winter. At Washington he obtained his B.A. degree and gained a scholarship which enabled him to go to Harvard, where he took graduate work in History and Political Science, receiving his M.A. degree in 1907. He then decided that he would undertake work for the blind, and was fortunate in obtaining a travelling scholarship which permitted him to study the condition of the blind in different parts of the United States. His mind was quick to grasp and to digest all that he observed, and in the autumn of 1909 he was appointed Supervisor of the Department for the Blind in Cleveland, Ohio, then newly established under the Board of Education. In addition he became Manager of Men's Industries at the Cleveland Society for the Blind which was a small voluntary organisation. His connection with this Society lasted for a year only, and was, he said, a splendid experience, giving him a good insight into the work for blind adults. He tells us that the Department for the Blind in the Schools under the State Board of Education was very much the same as the day schools in England.

In 1913 special classes for myopic children were formed, known as Sight-Saving Classes. Mr. Irwin organised the second Sight-Saving Class to be opened in the United States, the first being in Boston. He was so fortunate as to obtain liberal State support, and, in consequence, this side of work for the blind developed more rapidly than did the work in Boston. For some ten years any other city in the States which contemplated opening such classes sent its teachers to Cleveland for preliminary training, and Cleveland set the standard for the rest of the country to follow. An important feature of American myopic classes is the use of books printed in large type. Mr. Irwin organised the Committee known as the Clear Type Publishing Committee, of which he has been the Chairman since its inception. So multiple are his duties, that he tells us he devoted many of his holidays to the editing of these text books and to other matters not usually connected with the word " vacation."

In addition to the above-mentioned duties, he was from 1915 to 1923 Supervisor of Sight-Saving Classes and Classes for the Blind in the city of Cincinnati and ten other cities in Ohio in which such classes were held. He became Director of Research and Education of the American Foundation for the Blind in 1923. He writes largely on different aspects of his work, and is a frequent contributor to the " Outlook for the Blind "—the organ of the American Foundation. In 1919 he published a monograph on " Blind Relief Legislation " which has proved extremely valuable, many of his recommendations having been adopted by several of the States. At present he is working on a revision of this pamphlet. He was also a member of the Uniform Type Committee, which finally instituted the use of one type of Braille instead of three, namely, the type generally known as Grade $1\frac{1}{2}$.

There is in America an Association known as the American Association of Workers for the Blind in the United States and Canada. Its members are teachers, home teachers, superintendents of institutions and public school classes for the blind, workshops, sight-saving classes, etc., who meet and discuss matters in connection with their work and thus accumulate informative data. Mr. Irwin was President of this Association from 1923 to 1927.

He is greatly interested in Life Insurance for the Blind, and contributed a valuable paper on this subject in a recent issue of " The Outlook." This profession, he maintains, enables a good many blind people to earn a satisfactory living in America. There are some 200 or more blind insurance agents in the United States earning from a few dollars up to 10,000 dollars (approximately £2,000) per annum. Mr. Irwin considers that life insurance offers a good field for the blind man, provided he is equipped with the right personality and the right mental " make up," and he has persuaded a good many young blind men to substitute this for the legal profession.

In 1913 he became greatly interested in mental tests for the blind. The tests then in use were not at all satisfactory, owing to the fact that to a great extent they involved the use of sight. In the summer of 1914 he arranged the first tentative scale of tests with the help of Dr. H. H. Goddard, one of the leading American psychologists. Taking the Binet scale as a basis, they first struck out those tests which could not be given without the use of sight, made additions from various sources, and arranged the whole collection of tests in year groups according to Mr. Irwin's judgment of the abilities of blind children. Having started this work, he persuaded Professor Samuel P. Hayes of Mt. Holyoake College to complete the work of standardisation. The system, now known in America as the Irwin-Binet Test, was recently expounded at a meeting of the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind at the National Institute for the Blind, London, by Dr. Hayes.

Mr. Irwin expresses himself as deeply impressed by all that he has seen of printing for the blind in England, which in his opinion leads the world in this respect. In America there are manifold difficulties to be overcome before two-side printing can come into its own. They have, he said, to show that it is as easy to read as one-side printing, and to investigate matters such as reduction of cost and bulk. He considers that two-side printing obtains a reduction of some 40 per cent. in bulk, and that it is bound to come into general use in America sooner or later.

In England he was further deeply interested in the home-teaching work and in the workshops system, with especial reference to the subject of augmentation of wages and disposal of products. He also expressed his admiration at the way in which posts were obtained for blind people as organists. In America it appears that there are very few blind church organists.

"These," he said, in summing up his impressions, "are some of the things I should like to study in detail."

So intent did he appear on all these matters, that it was somewhat surprising to learn that Mr. Irwin's recent trip to Europe was meant to be a little "holiday," in celebration of the tenth anniversary of his marriage. His wife was formerly assistant secretary of the Cleveland Society for the Blind, and later visiting teacher to the Cleveland Board of Education, doing valuable work among blind children. She is her husband's great mainstay, being intimately acquainted with all sides of his work.

And here we leave him, wishing him "good luck" in all his future undertakings in the cause which we all have at heart. Assuredly these undertakings are tackled in the right spirit; for we may judge from the photograph which accompanies this article that Mr. Irwin is no "grouser," and we think we are right in classing him among the cheery optimists whose work brings contentment to himself because it is well and truly done.

E. G.

BLIND BOY SCOUTS IN NEWCASTLE

WE have read with pleasure in *The Newcastle Daily Journal* that Sir Robert Baden Powell has taken a great interest in the formation of a troop of Boy Scouts at the Victoria School for the Blind, Benwell Lane, Newcastle, where remarkably good work is being accomplished. Capt. Roland Stewart, M.C., District Commissioner for Newcastle, has received the following letter addressed to the Boy Scouts :—

"I have been so delighted to hear that you are going ahead so well, and that with the help of Toc H, you have built yourselves a Headquarters, and are getting on well with your signalling and ambulance work. I hope to hear of you before long that you have your own band of bagpipers and team of dancers as well. All good wishes to you.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT BADEN POWELL."

READERS should note that in future all wireless sets sent out by the National Institute for the Blind will remain the property of the Institute. When sets are no longer required by their users, they should be returned to the Institute.

ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFICATED BLIND MASSEURS

THE report of the work carried on by this Association for the last twelve months marks progress in all directions. It states:—"The building-up process which the Council of the Association has steadily persevered with has borne practical results, and, within the comparatively short space of eight years, a steady organisation has been gradually built up, with the main object of assisting and securing the recognition and status of blind masseurs and masseuses, and furthering by every means possible their professional interest." The activities of this Association have been referred to in previous issues of our magazine; but, in passing, we would remind readers of the fact that financial support is given by the National Institute for the Blind, and also by St. Dunstan's Hostel; that the Association is represented on the Standing Committee for the Blind, the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gynmastics, the Council of Allied Professions, and the Executive Council of the Federation of Medical and Allied Services; that a journal in Braille type is published for the exclusive benefit of blind masseurs and masseuses, and that the special Massage Library founded by the National Institute is at the disposal of all members of this Association.

Considerable attention is at present being paid to the question of State registration, and a special meeting was held at St. Thomas's Hospital, at which this Association was represented. The Privy Council has now sanctioned all qualified masseurs and masseuses holding the recognised qualification to style themselves Chartered Masseurs and Masseuses. During the period under review, several new Vice-Presidents have been elected to represent the Association in London as well as in the provinces where blind masseurs and masseuses are practising. Medical men are requested to bear in mind that fully-qualified members of this Association are practising in all parts of London, Greater London and the provinces. Their names and addresses can be obtained on application to the Secretary, A.C.B.M., 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1. (Tel. Museum 9703). Regular advertisements have appeared in the leading papers daily and in several medical journals during past years with satisfactory results.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

DESPITE the bad weather conditions, the month of July saw several interesting events when " Geranium " collections were at last disposed of on the first and second Saturdays.

The Committee of Management of the Royal Academy of Music invited a speaker to be present at the dress rehearsal of " The Mastersingers," one of the two Operas publicly performed by the students this year at the Scala Theatre. The conductor was Mr. Julius Harrison. Unfortunately, the date coincided with the storm, and the house was not filled to overflowing, as it would otherwise have been ; nevertheless, the audience was a large one, and responded generously to the appeal, which was made by Mr. H. C. Preece.

Concerts were given by the blind artistes at Eynsford, where the hall was kindly lent by the Lady Emily Dyke, and by invitation of the Shepherds Bush Cricket Club.

On July 19th, under the auspices of the Putney " Helpers of the Blind," a garden party was held at Exeter House, Roehampton, by kind permission of Lord and Lady Cullen of Ashbourne. The garden made a charming setting for scenes from " Twelfth Night," performed by members of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, and for some quaintly-dressed child dancers. Music was provided by a string quartette. In the interval before tea was served, Lady Cullen presided at a short meeting. Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., spoke eloquently of the work of the Fund, and expressed the thanks of the committee to the present hostess, also to Mrs. Basil Gill and members of the Putney H.O.B., referring particularly to their help on " Geranium Day." Miss Faith Celli made a moving appeal for a good collection and for new " Helpers of the Blind " to carry on the work so well begun in Putney. A vote of thanks on behalf of the Circle was moved by Mrs. Basil Gill.

The annual fête organised by the energetic Edmonton H.O.B. took place this year on July 23rd in Pymmes Park, once again lent by the Urban District Council. As before, it proved most enjoyable to both grown-ups and children, and will be the means of bringing a substantial contribution to the Fund. It would be invidious to mention one of the committee as having worked harder than another : all were there, each taking his or her share. Prizes were presented to the successful competitors in the children's inter-schools sports, which are the special feature of this fête. Croyland Road School bore off both the " Victory " Challenge Shield, which they held last year, and the " All Saints' Sick Club " Challenge Shield. In addition, the two new "Middleton" Cups for the best boy and best girl went to the same school. Of the very handsome trophies offered annually, only the " Bernstein " Tug-of-War medals went elsewhere—to Brettenham as winner and Eldon as runners-up—although individual pupils of each school in the district won a share of the many prizes so generously placed at the disposal of the organising committee. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Middleton, wife of Councillor W. F. Middleton, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Circle, a well-known sportsman who has interested himself in the inter-schools sports from their inauguration in a most practical and generous way. He accompanied Mrs. Middleton and took the opportunity to testify to his satisfaction that Edmonton would be able to take a high place in the athletic world in the near future. Councillor H. P. Harvey (Vice-Chairman of the Educational Committee) thanked the Circle for instituting this annual and very valuable sports meeting for the children of the district ; he also expressed his thanks to the teachers for the enthusiasm with which they had taken up the idea. Mr. H. A. Grant, the genial Chairman of the Edmonton " Helpers of the Blind," presided, and drew many laughs from the audience in response to his breezy comments on the proceedings. A beautiful bouquet was presented to Mrs. Middleton by the Champion Girl who, with the assistance of the Champion Boy, made the lucky draws for three handsome cakes and a fine armchair, Mrs. Middleton announcing the winners.

There were numerous games and attractions in addition to the Fair, which seemed to be well patronised, and great interest was shown in the demonstration by blind home workers from Swiss Cottage of boot repairing, chair caning, etc. The stall of knitted articles and baskets made by the blind did a good trade.

Altogether a most delightful afternoon and evening, which it is hoped may be celebrated for the benefit of the blind for many years to come.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

MISSION TO THE OUTDOOR BLIND OF GLASGOW.—The past year has seen a further increase in the amount of work undertaken by the Mission to the Outdoor Blind for Glasgow and the West of Scotland.

On the register there are 1,517 males and 1,335 females, an increase of 299 new cases compared with the previous year.

The year has been a somewhat difficult one, and whilst £3,264 was received in subscriptions and donations, £3,480 was spent in direct benevolence.

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NORWICH INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—In presenting their annual report, the Committee state that the affairs of this Institution and the health of the inmates have been most satisfactory during the period under review. Subscriptions for the year amounted to £220, the legacies received were £394, donations £12, and the sales of manufactured goods £1,795. The sales show a decrease of over £100, due doubtlessly to the depression in trade generally. Wages paid to blind workers exclusive of augmentation amounted to £625. The number of workers on the books from March 31st was 72 ; these include resident and non-resident persons.

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ROYAL SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY FOR THE BLIND, Bristol.—An encouraging report is issued by this institution, which was founded in 1857. In spite of the depression caused by the coal dispute, the report states that their income has been on the whole maintained, and in some respects improved, whilst the expenses have been met and no diminution of the payments to the blind for their work or maintenance has been necessary. The collections for the Blind Workers' Help Fund are again, and for the third year, close on £1,000. The Technical Department has been busy throughout the year, and sales amounting to £500 have been made.

In the Basket-making Examination held by the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers, City of London, the following successes were obtained :—

1st	Class	Certificate	of Merit	1
2nd	,,	,,	,,	3
3rd	,,	,,	,,	5

Three of the ex-pupils of the school have been employed in the factory of Messrs. J. S. Fry & Sons, Ltd., since last September. The school has been most successful as regards music. During the year, 29 pupils were entered for the examinations of the Incorporated Society of Musicians and Trinity College, London, all being successful.

The Home Teaching Branch has been active during the period under review. The scale of assistance to the blind in home occupations has been improved, and various grants amounting in all to £1,000 have been made.

* * * *

INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE BLIND, Tottenham Court Road.—We have received the annual report of this institution, which records a falling-off of income during the period under review. This is no doubt due in part to industrial disturbances, but, the report states, it should also be remembered that blind persons cannot be employed except at a loss, and on that fact the Association's needs and appeals are largely based. Benefits to the blind have reached a figure in excess of the former year, namely, £20,380 as against £19,300.

The most important development since the publication of the last report is the acquisition of additional workshops in Fitzroy Place, Euston Road.

The sales during the year raised the sum of £31,999. Government grants totalled £1,962, and the sum of £2,550 was allocated by the Greater London Fund for the Blind. Legacies to the value of £54 have been received. The Boot Repairing Department, which was opened prior to the beginning of the current year, has made good progress. Eight blind men are now employed in this department, and some 3,247 pairs of boots and shoes have been repaired in the twelve months under review. A new department has been opened in which blind men and women are trained and employed in the manufacture of all kinds of netting. There are already thirteen men and women in training in this department.

A monthly publication is now being issued by this institution, in which are included articles of interest to householders, advertisements of goods for sale, etc. The profits are transferred to the Benevolent Funds of the Association.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—*(Continued from page 2 of Cover)*

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

		s.	d.
	EDUCATIONAL—		
7421	Précis Writing for Schools, by C. L. Thomson	9	0
	SCIENCE—		
	The following are published by the assistance of the Embossed Scientific Books Fund, founded by H. M. Taylor, Esq., M.A., F.R.S.		
7700	"The A.B.C. of Atoms," by Bertrand Russell, F.R.S....	9	9
	FICTION—		
7334-7339	"Guy Mannering," by Sir Walter Scott, 6 vols. ... ... per vol.	8	9
7340-7345	"Hereward the Wake," by Charles Kingsley, 6 vols. ... ... per vol.	8	6
7778-7781	"The Cask," by Freeman Wills Croft, 4 vols. ... ... per vol.	6	6

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND—LIST OF ADDITIONS

August, 1927.

FICTION.

Benson, E. F. Autumn Sowing ... ... 4 vols.
Bramah, E. Wallet of Kai Lung ... ... 4 vols.
Curwood, J. O. Son of Kazan ... ... 3 vols.
Farnol, Jeffery. Definite Object ... ... 5 vols.
Hardy, T. Pair of Blue Eyes ... ... 7 vols.
Hine, M. Youth Wins ... ... 5 vols.
James, Henry. Death of the Lion ... ... 1 vol.
Kaye-Smith, S. George and the Crown ... 6 vols.
Lincoln, J. C. Mr. Pratt ... ... 4 vols.
Orczy, Baroness. By the Gods Beloved ... 3 vols.
Rawson, M. S. Adventurers at Rye Town ... 5 vols.
Ridge, W. Pett. Nine to Six-Thirty ... ... 6 vols.
Service, R. W. Rough-Neck ... ... 6 vols.
Shute, N. Marazan ... ... 4 vols.
Wallace, E. Clue of the New Pin ... ... 4 vols.
Wynne, M. Heroine of Chelton School ... 3 vols.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Dudley, O. F. Shadow on the Earth. ... 2 vols.
Germanus, Father. Life of Gemma Galgani 7 vols.
Klein, S. T. Way of Attainment ... ... 3 vols.
Monkhouse, A. Essays of To-day and Yesterday ... ... 1 vol.
Soothill, W. E. Timothy Richard of China ... 6 vols.
Swete, H. B. Life of the World to Come ... 1 vol.
*Blatchford, R. English Prose and How to Write It ... ... 1 vol.
*Joseph, M. Short Story Writing for Profit ... 1 vol.

GRADE I.

Moore, D. Knights of the Red Cross ... 2 vols.

ESPERANTO.

Eeden, F. van. La Malgranda Johano ... 3 vols.

MOON.

Crawford, F. M. Mr. Isaacs ... ... 6 vols.
Milne, A. A. Day's Play ... ... 5 vols.

* Presented by the National Institute for the Blind.

THE supplementary catalogue of books added to the National Library since the last edition of the catalogue was issued in 1925 will, it is hoped, be ready during September.

Miss O. I. Prince, Secretary and Librarian, 35 Great Smith Street, S.W.1, states that she will be glad to send a copy (price 4d., post free) to any who care to apply.

A BLIND ANGLER

ACCORDING to the *Nottingham Evening News* a totally blind angler has won a prize in a recent competition. He had only one fish—weighing one ounce—but it was an accomplishment to which several of the full-sighted competitors did not attain.

The occasion was the annual outing of the Fox and Hounds Club, and the match was fished at Farndon Ferry.

Mr. H. Smith, the blind angler, was placed eighth.

HOME FOR BLIND BABIES, "SUNSHINE HOUSE," SOUTHPORT, LANCS.

(Approved by Board of Education).

Kindergarten Teacher required for October. Froebel and/or Montessori qualifications. Music, especially aural training methods, an advantage. Apply with references, stating salary required (non-resident), NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

There is a vacancy for a **Woman Home Visitor** on the staff of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association for the Blind, 49 Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1.

Candidates, who should be between the ages of 25 and 45, should apply by letter to THE SUPERVISOR, before September 10th, giving name and address, qualifications, previous experience, age, and date when free, and enclosing copies of two recent testimonials; experience of social work desirable. Commencing salary £2 10 0 weekly.

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the August Numbers)

Progress.—The Textile Livery Companies of London—The Magic of the Silver Disc—Shelley's Skylark (Poem)—Brazilian Folk-lore—A Night in a Lapp Hut—Our Prize Competition—Correspondence—Matters of the Moment—Advertisements—"Great White Silence"—The Birthplace of Lewis Carroll—Queer Customs at Weddings—An Adventurous Voyage—A Marvellous Coursing Match—David Davis—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page: Le Petit Rapporteur—Fiction: The Empty Chair (concluded). (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6s. per annum' post free.)

The Literary Journal.—Machiavelli: Patriot and Politician—Chess in History and Fiction—Albania—Poor Elizabeth—Scholarships for the Blind, September, 1927—Some Snares of Story-telling—A Winged David—Some Recent Books. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Memory Playing—N.I.B. Edition—Obituary: Mr. Henry Taaffe—Correspondence—R.C.O. Successes—Grove's Dictionary—An Icelandic Composer—The "Little Organ Book" of Bach—Supplements: Music Reviews; Announcements. Inset: Organ: "Andante in F." (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Influence of Ultra-Violet Rays on Calcium and Phosphorus Metabolism in various diseases (continued)—Some Remarks on Scoliosis—Counter Irritation—News in the Massage World—Official Notices. Supplements: "Massage Journal" Insets: Massage and Exercises during the Puerperium (continued)—Treatment of Patients with High Blood Pressure.—Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Channels of Blessing.—Moral Miracles—Ben Karshook's Wisdom—Faith and Obedience—Psalm 127—Our Letter from India—"Light in Darkness" Birthday League—The Field is the World—"The Christ of the Indian Road"—Verses—God is able, God is willing—My Cross—Prayer Union—Inset: "Channels of Blessing" Supplement: Paul's Preparation for his Life-work; Tools for Teachers. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6½d. per copy, post free.)

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Resumé of Programmes Broadcast from Stations (England and Wales) of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Bills before Parliament—The Science of Geomorphology—News Items—The Poet's Corner—American Notes—Favourite Quotations—The Year 1920, and After—Correspondence—Stageland—Advertisements and General Notices—Legal Notes—Humour. Supplements: Literary: "Mr. Nigel Playfair" (continued); "Song and Dipping Wing," "The Parting." Music: The Story of Wagner's "The Nibelung's Ring," by Herbert Palmer; Song: "A Blessing," by Cuthbert Wynne. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—Awe and Grandeur of the Great Eclipse—Wonders of Insect Society (Everyday Science)—Prince of the Outcasts (Daily Express)—A Case of Stigmata (The Observer)—"The Pessimist" (Poem)—Gabriel Samara, Book II, Chapters 1, 2 (E. Phillips Oppenheim)—An Alligator as a Sewer Cleaner (Everyday Science)—Cheques and Postmen before Abraham (Everyday Science)—Thoughts for the Month—Seven Religions in One Church (Morning Post)—The Days before Paper (My Magazine)—King Ferdinand (The Observer). (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 1s. 8d. per month, post free.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

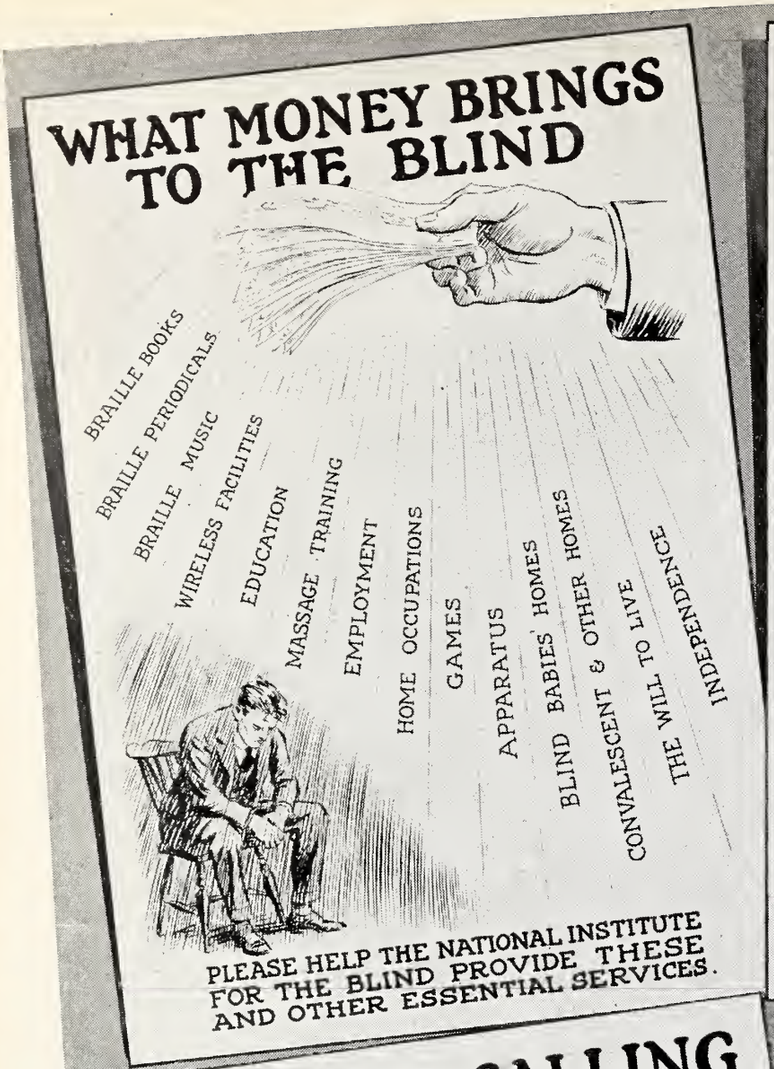
Moon Magazine.—Old Winsome—Bibliophiles—Telephoning to a Dog—Filling London's Larder—The University of Canberra—A Nursery Rhyme—Handshakes in History. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 9s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

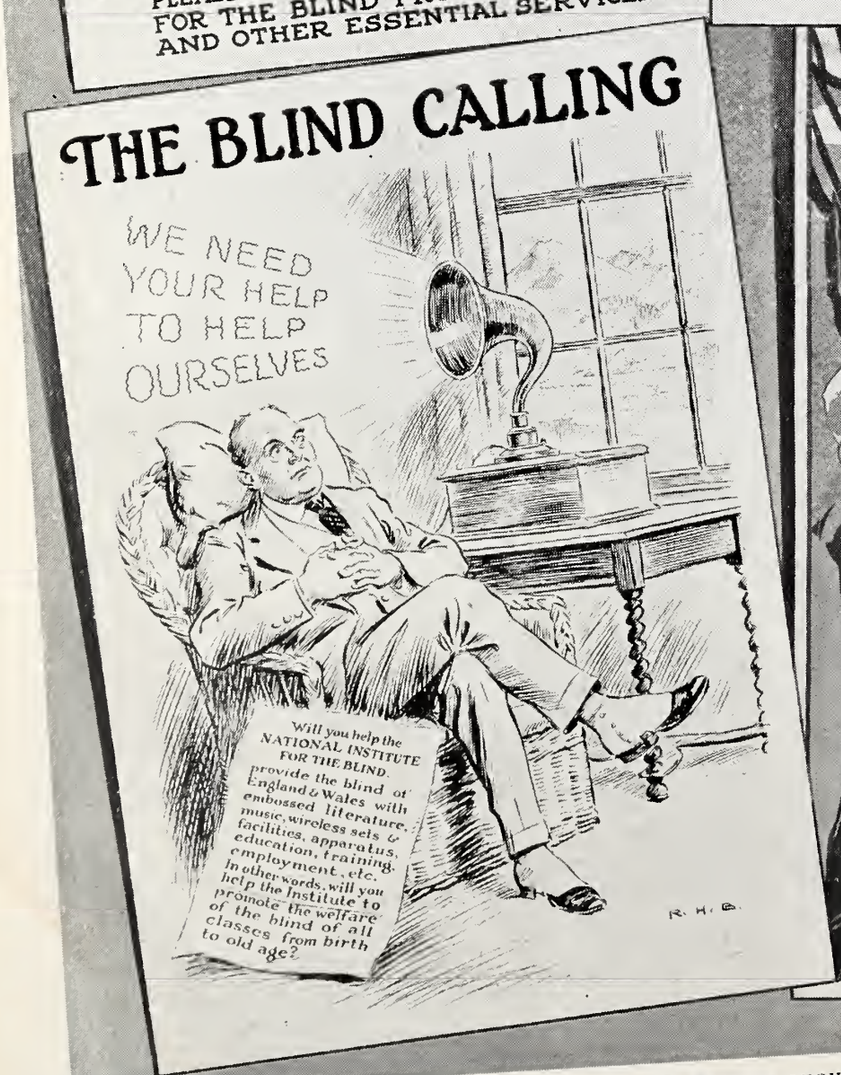
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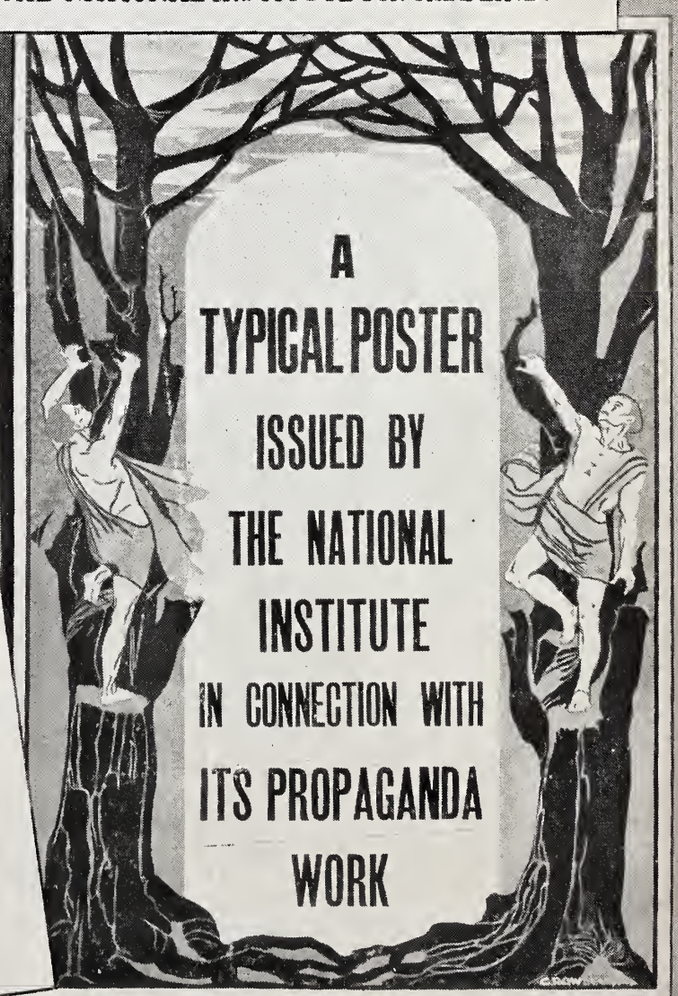
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WANTED—Home Teacher for Stockport Institute for the Blind; preferably a woman with full sight and experience of the work, and, if possible, in possession of the Home Teachers' Certificate. Wages £3 per week. Applications to be addressed THE SECRETARY, Institute for the Blind, St. Petersgate, Stockport, to be in not later than the 5th September.









SOME EXAMPLES OF APPEALS ISSUED BY THE INSTITUTE SHOWING HOW IT ENDEAVOURS TO INTEREST THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN ITS WORK (*Annual Report*, 1926-27)

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1927

OCTOBER

Vol. XI No. 130

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	CHURCH—		
7974	"Haste, ye Shepherds," Tenor Solo from "Christmas Oratorio," by Bach (E minor: Compass D natural to A'), pocket size	2	0
7975	"Blessing and Honour" (Anthem), by Palestrina (Vertical score)	2	0
	ORGAN—		
7976	Fantasia in C, by Byrd (arranged by J. E. Borland) (Bar by bar) pocket size	2	0
7977	"Cantilène Nuptiale," by H. A. Fricker (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7978	Serenade in A, by G. Pierne (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO—		
7979	Tango, Op. 165, No. 2, by Albeniz (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7980	Sonata, No. 22 in F, Op. 54, Macpherson's edition, by Beethoven (Bar by bar)	3	0
7981	"Rosemary," by Frank Bridge (Bar by bar)	2	0
7982	"Through the Ages" (Six Impressions of Bygone Days) and Epilogue, by J. Ching (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	4
7983	"Fairy-Caprice," by T. Haigh (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7984	"The Sermon to the Birds" (La Prédication aux Oiseaux"), by Liszt (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7985	"The Masqueraders" (Suite), by R. H. Walthew (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	8
7986	Prelude in A minor and Humoresque in C, Op. 3, Nos. 1 and 2, by Dalhousie Young (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO DUETS—		
7987	"Golden Sunshine" (Nine Little Duets), by L.J. Beer (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	4
7988	Secondo Parts (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	8
	DANCE—		
7989	"Indian Butterfly," Song Fox-Trot, by Leslie, Lodge and Stone (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7990	"Whistle Away your Blues," Song Fox-Trot, by R. Myers (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7991	"My Tumble-down Cottage of Dreams," Song Fox-Trot, by H. Nicholls (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
7992	"The Whispering Pines of Nevada," Song-Waltz, by H. Nicholls (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
7993	"The New Umbrella," by Maurice Besly (C: Compass C to G' flat), pocket size	2	0
7994	"Cradle Song," by Byrd (F: Compass E to E' flat), pocket size	2	0
7995	"Non piu andrai," from "Le Nozze di Figaro," by Mozart (C: Compass C to E')	2	0
7996	"Ye Twice Ten Hundred Deities," by Purcell (G minor: Compass G, to E'), pocket size	2	0
7997	"Cuckoo Song," by Roger Quilter (B: Compass D natural to F'), pocket size	2	0
7998	"Pretty Polly Oliver," by A. Somervell (arranged by) (E flat: Compass C to F'), pocket size	2	0
7999	"Pièta, Signore" (Against Thee only have I Sinned), by Stradella (A minor: Compass A, to D')	2	0
8000	"Shenandoah" (Windlass and Capstan), by R. R. Terry (arranged by) (E. flat: Compass B, to E'), pocket size	2	0
8001	"Billy Boy," (Northumbrian Capstan Shanty), by R. R. Terry (arranged by) (E flat: Compass B, to E'), pocket size	2	0
8002	"The Animals went in Two by Two," by Gerrard Williams (arranged by), (G minor: Compass D to D'), pocket size	2	0
8003	"The Call," by Vaughan Williams (E flat: Compass E to F')	2	0
	DUET—		
8004	"Funiculi Funicula" (A Merry Heart), by L. Denza, Soprano and Contralto	2	0

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

	FICTION—			
7387-7392	"Fortitude," by Hugh Walpole, 6 vols.	per vol.	6	3
7346-7350	"Hypatia," by Charles Kingsley, 5 vols.	per vol.	9	3
7691-7692	"The Stolen Budget," by J. S. Fletcher, 2 vols.	per vol.	9	0

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XI.—NO. 130. OCTOBER, 1927. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

THE PRESS ON WORK FOR THE BLIND

REVIEWS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE



LAST month we gave an extended review of the Annual Report of the National Institute for the Blind for the year ended March 31st, 1927. We now supplement this by brief extracts from reviews of the Report which have appeared in the Press throughout the country.

Attention was drawn in the Report to the generosity of the Press towards the blind. "To the Press the blind owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude: it is ever ready not only to give publicity to appeals, to interesting stories, to snapshots, to the particulars of new developments, but to support work for the blind generally by every means in its power. It is largely due to this unfailing interest and help of the Press that work for the blind, even despite the increasing difficulty of raising the necessary funds, is in its present healthy and progressive condition."

The use of the word "unfailing" was certainly a happy inspiration. Seldom have we seen an Annual Report of any institution so widely and generously reviewed in the daily, weekly and monthly Press as that of the National Institute. Only a very faint idea of the extent of this invaluable publicity can be gathered from the very brief extracts we are able to give. Literally hundreds of columns have been freely devoted to the Report, some papers even dealing additionally with the work of the Institute on the leader page. This favourable reception of its Report must be exceedingly gratifying to the Executive Council and should be of the greatest assistance in future labours.

Times :—

"The attitude of the general public towards the blind is considered to be one not of decreasing but of increasing interest, especially as it is becoming more widely known that the Institute and local institutions and agencies are engaged in unifying effort. . . Nearly 400,000 publications were issued during the year. The latest innovation is the *Braille Radio Times*, of which 1,500 copies are being sold weekly."

Daily Telegraph :—

"A comprehensive record. . . . A perusal of this very attractive book will be a revelation of the numerous activities of the organisation. Its task of education alone is an immense effort. . . . The future welfare of the blind generally cannot fail to be largely influenced by the labours of the Technical and Research Committee, which is composed of many distinguished experts in the scientific world. . . . It is deeply interesting to learn how wireless has revolutionised the outlook for the blind world. . . . The photographs convey a vivid impression of the great and beneficent labours of the Institute; no one, surely, could gaze at the pictures of the happy blind babies cared for so tenderly in the Sunshine Homes without having the heart most deeply stirred."

Morning Post :—

"In recent years rapid progress has been made with the task of restoring to blind people some of the comforts and pleasures which they had lost. . . . . Description of the work that is being carried on at the Institute's Sunshine Homes will make glad the heart of every lover of children. . . . The work for the adult blind is maintained, and not least important is the steadily increasing supply of reading matter in Braille.

Daily Chronicle :—

"For the Institute's wonderful Braille library nearly 800 new volumes have been prepared by hand by volunteer Braille writers during the year."

The People :—

"The report, which is really an intensely interesting publication, as profusely illustrated as a popular magazine, gives many examples of the ways in which blindness has been conquered."

Morning Advertiser :—

"The report is a wonderful book. It covers a very wide field of activities, and shows how successfully people afflicted with blindness, when properly trained, can take up almost any kind of employment."

Edinburgh Evening Despatch :—

"An annual report is not the kind of document to which one naturally or usually turns for vivid and thrilling reading, yet the review of the work of the National Institute contains much that makes a direct 'heart appeal.' . . . Presents a graphic picture of a noble struggle against destiny."

Sheffield Advertiser :—

"Certain modern institutions make one feel glad that the 'good old days' have passed away. One of these is the National Institute. The report is a remarkable document—if one may be permitted to adopt a facetious expression, one may say it is an 'eye-opener.'"

The Tatler :—

"The report is an exhaustive account of the work of the largest institution for the blind in the world, and presents a vivid picture of a noble struggle against destiny, a picture, literally marvellous and fascinating, of a world of physical darkness but of intensely living, spiritual light. The work of the Institute in preparing blind men for industry is truly wonderful."

Liverpool Post :—

"An exhaustive account of the operations of the largest institution for the blind in the world."

Manchester City News :—

"A noble work—such undoubtedly is that of the National Institute. . . . . The report is in every sense a document carrying a very vivid human story ; it presents a striking picture of a noble struggle against destiny. It also reveals how we have progressed in our treatment of the natural or accidentally blind. . . . The cause is a most worthy one."

North Western Daily Mail :—

"Of the many institutional reports there are few more interesting than that emanating yearly from the National Institute. It gives an illuminating account of the fine work accomplished. To most people with eyesight, this record of a great work will come as an astounding revelation of the inextinguishable optimism of human kind. The pictures produced are astonishing. . . .Those who wish to see how the money is spent will find in the report an elaborate statement of the accounts showing that the utmost vigilance is exercised in the distribution, allocation and expenditure of the funds. Of noble causes, this work is pre-eminent."

British Medical Journal :—

"The Institute is becoming more and more the co-ordinating agency of the numerous small local blind aid societies throughout the country ; it is through it that for many purposes various statutory authorities assist the blind ; it helps the blind by relief and training, in finding employment, and in organising the marketing of their handiwork. For these reasons alone it would be worthy of all sympathy and assistance. But these aspects of its work are not the greatest features of its activities. Perhaps that which is the most helpful is its action as the greatest publishing agency for the blind. . . . . Chorley Wood College is a fine piece of work. . . .The report contains a clear financial statement."

The Freemason :—

"The adage 'Fact is stranger than fiction' has received, and is constantly receiving, so many exemplifications that its reiteration becomes somewhat wearisome. It has been left to the Executive Council of the National Institute to submit facts which are far more fascinating and enthralling than any fictional statements can be. As the largest institution

for the blind in the world, its scope for activity is exceptional, and the governing body has made excellent use of its opportunities. . . . The report is of such intense interest and its photographic reproductions so absorbing that it is not easy to lay it on one side."

Nottingham Guardian :—

"There is no doubt that prior to the last decade the general impression of the man in the street as to the blind world was as dark as that world's darkness. In other words, he saw in a blind man an entirely useless person, nothing but a very pitiful and rather disagreeable mendicant on whom money could never be economically expended. The pages of the report are sufficient to destroy once and for all this absurd idea, if it still exists."

Glamorgan Advertiser :—

"An epic of heroism and grit in the overcoming of difficulties and disadvantages. That is what the report of the National Institute is."

The London Mercury :—

"Of special interest to us in the report is the list of books published by the blind. This includes, as well as works by Meredith, Henry James, Stevenson, Trollope and Herman Melville, the *Kreutzer Sonata*, *Maria Chapdelaine*, and the *Way of the World*. And when *Georgian Stories of* 1924 and works by Mr. John Buchan and Mr. Sabatini are found in the same list, it cannot be said that the Committee's taste runs in a groove."

Hardware Trade Journal :—

"Makes impressive reading. . . . A surprising revelation of the extent to which the disability of blindness has been overcome. . . . Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., the Chairman of the Institute, is himself blind, but he does a full day's responsible work."

Electrical Review :—

"This record is both pathetic and interesting."

Musical Progress :—

"A handsome volume, beautifully illustrated, and containing some fine specimens of Braille music for the blind. It is shown that the blind musician now has at his command a constant supply of the best music at a cheap rate, and is provided with a complete Braille catalogue of all Braille music. There is also issued 'The Braille Musical Magazine.' A splendid achievement indeed."

Lancet :—

"An exhaustive account of the largest institution for the blind in the world and the largest publisher of embossed books in the world."

The Bystander :—

"In the report there is a very complete record of the magnificent work which this Institute has been doing among the unfortunate people who have lost their sight. Until one reads this report, the wide range of work done by the Institute is not fully realised. . . . The Institute helps the sightless to be happy and useful members of the community. We recommend all would-be supporters to read the report."

Medical World :—

"The keynote of the system is sympathy, and clearly, by the inclusion in its staff of so many of the sightless who must possess a perfect sense of the intimate sentiments and necessities of their fellow-sufferers, the Institute is gratefully free from the rather tactless pity sometimes too apparent in normal people. . . . The report succeeds in presenting the objects of the Institute's care as examples of how affliction may be overcome rather than piteously endured."

The Sphere :—

"A complete history of the magnificent work the society has undertaken, carried through, and proposes to carry through in the future."

John o' London's Weekly :—

"The Institute's publishing department is more adventurous than most people realise. Apart from books of all kinds, in Braille and Moon types, the Institute puts out two newspapers, a literary review, a popular monthly, and monthlies devoted to juvenile literature, music, massage and religious subjects. The latest innovation is the *Braille Radio Times*."

Musical Standard :—

"Help is always needed for the manifold good works of the Institute ; to read the report is to realise how wise and how far-reaching are the results of the loving care given to those who most need it."

Teachers' Times :—

"The report reveals what tremendous strides have been made during the last few years in helping the blind. It is illustrated by a wonderful range of pictures from pathetic little mites playing 'Ring-of-Roses' in a home for blind babies to blind men and women engaged in various forms of earning their living. The activities of this now famous institution

are enormous. The best way in which to help this truly noble work is by subscription."

Nursing World :—

"I am frankly amazed at the things these blind babies and toddlers are able to do."

Christian World :—

"The work of the Institute is deserving of all support and recognition. A study of the report emphasises its vital importance."

British and Colonial Printer :—

"Excellent work is being done by the Institute in providing sightless people with books and periodicals which open up to them wide sources of information and entertainment."

Methodist Leader :—

"If you have a blind friend, or if you merely appreciate the blessing of sight, send for a copy of the report and read every word of it. Without exaggeration, the world of the blind has been revolutionised during the past twenty years. . . .The pictures of sweet and happy children are very moving. But the tragedy of it ! . . .The Christian public will not permit the essential work of the Institute to fail."

Music Trades Review :—

"Incorporates some very interesting particulars of the work being done for the blind musician. . . . It is an astounding record of work on behalf of the sightless. We commend the cause to all generous-minded persons."

Christian :—

"A handsome production, presenting an exhaustive account of the society's work for the welfare of the blind of our land. The report is fully illustrated, and tells the story of a remarkable and invaluable effort."

United Methodist :—

"The pictures in the report alone are astonishing."

Western Evening Herald :—

"The report is a finely-produced volume, and some of the photographs, besides being pretty, are deeply didactic. . . . To the Editor of the *Western Evening Herald* Sir Beachcroft Towse sends his thanks, though I think that to such a cause as the Institute's this paper is willing to give its unconditional aid."

Marylebone Mercury :—

"An interesting piece of literature which everybody should read."

Wireless World :—

"The Institute is doing its very best to meet the very urgent need for wireless sets for blind people."

Midland Telegraph :—

"The report makes most interesting reading. There are many points of considerable interest in its pages, but the most striking of all is perhaps the revelation of what the advance of science has done for the blind in all walks of life."

Walthamstow Guardian :—

"A wonderful record of work done on behalf of the sightless from almost the cradle to the grave."

Stock Exchange Gazette :—

"A document of exceptional interest. We strongly recommend those interested in this work to apply for a copy of this report."

The Schoolmaster :—

"A fascinating account of the multiple activities of the Institute among the blind of all ages."

Northern Evening Despatch :—

"The annual report of the Institute shows how the sightless triumph over their handicap. Although there is an underlying note of pathos about it all, there is no sense of sadness in the cheery reports of the Institute's numerous activities."

Birmingham Evening Despatch :—

"Remarkable records of the part the blind are taking in world industry are detailed. Details are also given of the wonderful work blind people are doing in other directions."

Exeter Express and Echo :—

"The ordinary man in the street little realises the inestimable work done by the National Institute, and the annual report is an illuminating brochure."

Oldham Evening Chronicle :—

"A most interesting record of untiring labour to make the lot of blind people easier and to extend the range of their activities. I have no space to tell of all the ingenious activities that are afoot, but they make most enthralling reading. The blind community are not only cared for with the greatest forethought and compassion, but many active brains are at work to find new pleasures and new duties in which they can take an active part."

Grimsby Daily Telegraph :—

"Quite apart from the reading matter, the photographs reproduced tell stories astonishing

enough. . . .The work of the Institute covers a very wide field, and it needs much money to carry on. It is not hard for the 'outsider' whose eyes are whole to see how he can do his little bit to help it."

Huddersfield Daily Examiner :—

"The photograph reproduced on the cover —that of a blind man listening-in—is sufficient proof of the progressive attitude to-day both of the blind and of those working for them."

Yorkshire Evening Post :—

"Among many remarkable pictures in the report, perhaps the most striking are those showing the blind engaged in world industries."

West Kent Advertiser :—

"An escape has truly been made from the century-old rut. Let us all, therefore, as the report asks us, be men and women who will spread the news that the blind are continuously progressing, and that the achievements of to-day may be but shadows beside the achievements of to-morrow."

Hampshire Advertiser :—

"Very pathetic are the illustrations showing how the blind are taught to help themselves and earn their own living, and how the blind children receive their education. Extremely interesting are the photographs of the various branches of the Institution."

Irish Independent :—

"The report contains a valuable record of work done for the training of sightless babies and children. All work for the blind is deserving not only of sympathy and admiration, but also of practical help. Especially so is this true of work for children born without sight."

Shrewsbury Chronicle :—

"Practically the only unsatisfactory feature of the report is that the income last year was £15,700 less than it was in the preceding year."

Brixton Free Press :—

"Newspapers this week have been devoting a large amount of space to the annual report of the National Institute. It is a record of good done to the most helpless class of the community and shows how widespread is the sympathy for the sightless. To-day the civil population, deprived of the gift of sight, are ministered to as never before."

Coventry Herald :—

"The training of blind babies is a work of the highest national importance."

Norwood Press :—

"This great society which is doing a magnificent work in our midst."

Amateur Wireless :—

"We have every sympathy for such a cause."

Kentish Times :—

"A fine work."

Bexhill Chronicle :—

"The report incorporates an illustrated story of the really marvellous work the Institute has done for those who have been deprived of the blessed gift of sight. One can truthfully say that to journalists the blind make a special appeal, and they are all round always ready to use their too often overworked pens if they can advance the cause of their less fortunate fellow creatures. We appeal to our readers to assist this most worthy object."

Warrington Guardian :—

"The world for blind people has been miraculously changed. They cannot be relieved of their terrible affliction, but their lives, once unimaginably hopeless and dreary, are brightened by the means which are taken to afford them interesting occupation."

Wimbledon Boro' News :—

"Now that the nation at large have assumed some measure of responsibility for the welfare of its blind citizens, the report of the work of the National Institute should be of special interest to all. . . . It is a matter for great thankfulness that mendicancy is no longer the blind man's sole resource. Not only is the change infinitely to the good of the blind people themselves, but to the good of the whole community, which must stand to lose by neglect to develop the intellectual resources of any of its citizens."

Portsmouth Evening News :—

"The report is an eye-opener in that it shows how successfully people afflicted with blindness, when properly trained, can take up almost any kind of employment. Not only that, but they can enjoy most of the pleasures in which their seeing brothers and sisters indulge. There are wonderful pictures in the book."

Oxford Times :—

"It is truly remarkable to find in what a variety of ways the Institute is helping the blind, and this report should encourage many who have hitherto not taken part in the work to become subscribers to and supporters of it."

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)



N proceeding to discuss the various arrangements under which wage payments and subsidies are provided, it will probably be found most convenient for our purposes to attempt a rough classification of the various methods of remuneration, and where it would appear to be either expedient or necessary, to draw such conclusions or make such other observations as the prevailing circumstances may seem to warrant.

In an analysis of these conditions, it will generally be found necessary in the processes of inductive and deductive reasoning to which recourse must be had, to allow sufficient latitude for the free exercise of those basic appeals to sentiment which so often tend to sweeten life and prevent mankind from degenerating into mere pieces of soulless mechanism.

It must be borne in mind, however, that whilst one may legitimately give play to those humanitarian impulses and instincts, it is equally important to maintain such a rigid hold upon fundamental facts as to preserve that mental equilibrium without which no reliable judgment can be formed and no sound policy enunciated.

Before venturing upon the rough analysis of which I have already spoken, it will perhaps not be out of place to make yet another brief reference to the thorny topic of " the minimum wage."

It is quite apparent from correspondence which I have received, that some of the previous references I have made to the subject have been misunderstood, and before proceeding further it will be as well to attempt to clarify the situation.

Most people will be found willing to concede the point that the appeal for such a wage condition is primarily a sentimental consideration which may have but the very remotest association with economic fact. The connection may indeed be so remote as to be non-existent for practical purposes.

Whilst we are bound to enquire as to how far the factors of production can be made to yield the material returns upon which wages must in the final analysis rest, it is easily possible to press this investigation too far, and thus to develop an attitude which cannot be made to square with the acceptance of any ethical conception. Indeed, the orthodox economists of the last century carried their individualism so far as absolutely to foster this idea, and the consequence has been that we have been obliged to modify economic theory and practice substantially.

I am not prepared to subscribe to the view which is being pressed in some quarters, viz., that the so-called minimum wage is necessarily a false doctrine or an unworthy ideal. Those who advocate its adoption and application unreservedly may oftentimes be somewhat misguided, and in their enthusiasm may even unconsciously be doing a great disservice to the cause they desire to assist by indiscriminately abusing those who hold another point of view. Though we may grant all this, it by no means justifies us in turning a deaf ear to a reasoned case and giving to it that thoughtful attention upon which alone it is possible to establish a sound judgment, to say nothing of initiating a policy which is worth defending.

As I have previously pointed out, the term " minimum wage " as applied to non-seeing workers is a misnomer, for it does not, in the remotest sense, convey the real meaning or significance of the situation. The basis upon which the demand rests may, if you will, be defined as ethical, but by no stretch of imagination can it be construed to be either determined or influenced by economic law, and the people who in this matter claim to be the pure apostles of Marxian dogma ought to be the very last to employ the phrase in relation to the labour of the blind, for the theory of economic determinism as defined by the great German economist deprives them of every vestige of justification.

In the interest of all concerned, then, it is advisable that we should only employ such terms as are calculated to preserve and express the meaning and significance of the idea we are striving to convey, and the particular term to which reference is here made is quite improperly requisitioned.

(*To be continued*)

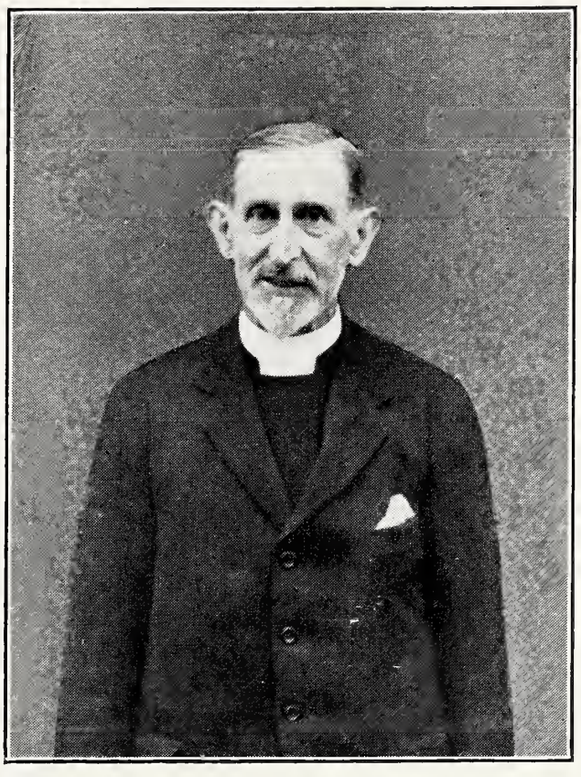
PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

CAPTAIN THE REVEREND HONYEL GOUGH ROSEDALE, M.A., D.D., F.S.A., F.R.S.L.



PEOPLE who have had little opportunity of appreciating the progress which has taken place in the blind world during the last decade express great astonishment when they see the work produced by their clever fingers. "Amazing!" "Marvellous!" "How do they do it?" are expressions frequently to be heard when knitting, basket making and other handicrafts practised by the blind are on view. Recently I showed my knitted dress and coat to a friend, assuring her that they had been made by blind women. "But what about the border pattern?" That, too, I assured her was "blind" work, and proceeded to tell her something about the London Association for the Blind which had produced the garment. I also gave her some particulars concerning the man who had set up these workshops, and had brought them and the work produced there to its present standard of excellence. I had just paid a visit to him in his country home at Copford, near Colchester, and he had told me a great deal of the "story" of the Association.



THE REV. H. G. ROSEDALE, M.A., D.D., F.S.A., F.R.S.L.

Dr. Rosedale was the son of a well-known Midland clergyman, the Rev. W. L. Rosedale, LL.D., a prominent personality in the County of Staffordshire where he had been the means of establishing several churches. His mother was Caroline Ann Gough, the eldest daughter of Ralph Gough, Esq., J.P., of Gorsebrook House, Wolverhampton. When he and his brother and sister were quite young their parents moved from Staffordshire to a parish in South London, of which his father had been appointed vicar. They remained there for some eighteen years, during which Dr. Rosedale attended the Merchant Taylors' School as a day pupil. On leaving school he matriculated and went to Christ Church, Oxford, where he remained for three years, taking his degree and then going on to Guy's Hospital, with the object of fitting himself to be a medical missionary. Being too young for ordination, he thought that he would qualify as a doctor. However, when he had been three years at Guy's his father resigned his London living, took a family living in Norfolk, and strongly urged his son to apply for ordination and then to come and help him and ultimately take his place. This came to pass; but before becoming ordained Dr. Rosedale underwent a year's business training, which proved of the very greatest value to him in after life. He was then ordained to a curacy in South London on the "princely" salary of £40 per year! Two years later he became the senior curate of the parish church at Spitalfields, and afterwards occupied the same position at Holy Trinity, Canning Town. After a year's work at this latter church, he left to take up the living in Norfolk from which his father had retired. He gladly welcomed this change, as he had recently married Ada Pelly, the eldest daughter of Percy L. Pelly, Esq., J.P., of Oakley, Merstham, and granddaughter of Sir Henry Pelly, Bart. Dr. Rosedale's natural energy showed itself in his work in the country, and during the greater part of the three and a half years during which he was vicar he organised an average of some seventy different meetings, services, etc., every week in the parish, at many of which he was himself present. His next move was to London, where he was appointed vicar of St. Peter's, Bayswater,

remaining there for over sixteen years. He improved the financial position of the church, effected many improvements, including a large amount of decorative work, and became so popular a preacher that a congregation approaching one thousand was a not unusual sight. In time all the work told upon his health, and he was at last informed by his doctors that he must give it up entirely or he could not expect to live. Taking the only course open to him, Dr. Rosedale retired from every kind of work and went to Worthing where he settled down in a small house of which he was the owner. His condition continued to be serious, but he finally recovered a certain measure of health, and was able to return to the London flat which he had taken after leaving St. Peter's.

Before his illness he had become considerably interested in civic affairs. He joined the Horners' Company and the Coach Makers' Company, of both of which he became the Worshipful Master, and is still their chaplain.

Some time after his return to town, partially recovered, he attended a masonic meeting, some of the members of which happened to be interested in the cause of the blind. During the course of the evening they approached him and begged him to help them in preserving a society for the blind in which they were deeply interested. The appeal did not fall upon uninterested ears, though Dr. Rosedale was deeply conscious of his incapacity for regular work. Whilst vicar of St. Peter's he had made a habit of holding a religious service at a small institution for the blind in his parish; his interest in the work had grown from year to year, and his increasing knowledge of the needs of the blind was now to stand him in good stead. He invited the Committee to his flat in Kensington, requesting them to bring all the information with regard to finance, etc., which they possessed. After dinner he left them to themselves, and retired to study the papers which they had brought. Returning to his friends, he assured them that the position was hopeless; for, as he pointed out, "you have not got the money to pay even the wages for the current week." The bank had refused to advance any more money, whilst there were debts amounting to some £1,400, which he told them might prove their one asset. The Committee had thought of closing the workshop that week, but had come to him as a last resource, offering him every assistance if he would only take the matter up. To cut a long story short, Dr. Rosedale promised to do what little he could on the grounds that he could not possibly make things any worse! Next day the invalid went down to South London, and as he has said many a time since, when he saw the accumulated dirt and the wretched condition of the workers he could almost have wept, for the sixteen poor old things working there seemed to have lost all heart. The story of the revival of the workshop, how its debts were paid, and the place put into good condition is full of interest, but is too lengthy to detail here.

The effect of this new interest on Dr. Rosedale's health was remarkable. He soon began to recover, and within a year he was considerably better, and deeply interested in the work which had fallen into his hands. The Committee did all in their power to make him accept payment, but being a man of private means, he said that he "did not think it right to take money where it was so much wanted for the needy poor," and he has had the delight of knowing that all he did for the Association was done as a voluntary service. The first work that fell to his lot after settling the heavy debts was the repairing of the Peckham Workshops, which little by little were made habitable. One of the problems confronting himself and his Committee was what could be done for the women. He found that under existing circumstances it was practically impossible for blind women to earn more than a very few shillings a week, work as hard as they would, for practically their only trade was that of hand-knitting. He gathered together some blind women and purchased some round machines for knitting socks, in the hope of making a success of the business, but like all other sock and stocking making it proved a commercial failure. The problem was then acute. He solved it partially, at first, by establishing flat machines with expert instructors to teach their use. There were a great many lessons to be learned, a great many failures to be made, and great financial losses to be met; but in due time he had the joy of finding that there had been established a more or less commercially sound movement for the manufacture of ladies' dresses, a success which has gone on until at last something like £20,000 worth of goods has been manufactured in a year. The next problem that perplexed him was that of

the unemployable. To deal with this he established what is known as "The Ladder of Hope," a body of so-called unemployables from whom many excellent workers have been gathered, and who have been taught to do at least something to help in the world's work.

During all this time in every department of the Association educational work was going on; young blind people were being taught to do manual work, and to do it well, until at last in one of the workshops machinery was set up for the manufacture of stair rods and knitting needles by blind people. Soon after he had taken up the work a move was made to establish an office in the West of London, and a place which Dr. Rosedale now speaks of as "the Second Floor Back" was obtained in Great Portland Street. This again proved too small, and larger offices were taken in Charing Cross Road, but the work progressed to such an extent that still larger premises were soon required and were found in Dean Street, Soho. A house and shop had also been obtained in Rochester Row, Westminster, and here it was decided to train female pupils, the knitting factory and head office remaining at Dean Street. Still the numbers continued to grow, and it was found necessary to acquire yet another house to accommodate more blind knitters. This was secured in Churton Street, not far from Rochester Row. It then dawned upon some of the Committee, who had always taken a deep personal interest in the work, that it would be distinctly better to unite, at any rate, two of the big buildings into one larger one, and the big house now known, by the wish of the Committee, as Rosedale House, was acquired for a central office and knitting factory, and the premises at Dean Street and Churton Street were given up.

The question of health amongst the workers has always been prominent in the minds of those interested in the London Association for the Blind. There is a Welfare Department attached to the Association, and the hostels, where the blind women and girls live, are run on hygienic lines; incidentally, it may be remarked that there are practically no rules at these hostels, whose inhabitants are allowed to do as they like to a reasonable extent. Dr. Rosedale was also instrumental in establishing a delightful home and workshop for blind girls at Bickley in Kent.

"And so," he says, "from one thing to another things progressed, but it was with no small anxiety that I recognised that the Committee were looking to me for everything, and, holding as I do the view that a 'one-man' show is a great mistake, I bethought myself as to how this could be remedied. I recognised that I could not immediately tear myself away, even if I could bear to do so, but gradually others were raised up and trained for the work." He then accepted a Crown living at Copford, near Colchester, and for some time his colleague and assistant, Captain Pollard, O.B.E., and another assistant, the Rev. A. Lombardini, have been accustoming themselves to the work of the Association with satisfactory results, and Dr. Rosedale has been coming up to the office once or twice a week. So devotedly did he carry out his duties as Rector and as Hon. Treasurer of the London Association, that his health again gave way, and in February last he had a paralytic stroke from which the present writer found him gradually recovering.

He is deeply attached to his present church which contains antiquities of great interest, including some remarkable frescoes of the 13th and 14th centuries, and Roman brick work, etc. The parish was originally the home of the Bishops of London, the last resident bishop having been Bishop Bonner. Until his recent illness Dr. Rosedale's activities included five services in two churches every Sunday, as well as many organisations connected with the parish. Having sold the former rectory, he now lives in a delightful Queen Anne house which he bought and converted into the rectory. The grounds are extensive and very delightful, for their owner takes a great pride in his wonderful array of flowers, and has received no less than twenty-three prizes this year at local flower shows. He has travelled much and is the author of many publications, including "A Life of St. Agnes," "A Book of Verses," "Queen Elizabeth and the Levant Company," "Celano's Lives of St. Francis," "With the British Association Through South Africa," "Milton's Religious Views," "A Short History of the Horners' Company," and "Some Notes on the History of the Worshipful Company of Coach and Coach-Harness Makers." He is also a contributor to numerous masonic periodicals. He is a great collector of prints, china, curios, old books and manuscripts, and a visit to the Queen Anne Rectory which contains all these treasures is a delight.

In this brief biography it has been impossible to enumerate all the activities of a life which

has been devoted to helping others. I have said nothing of his war work—of his Home for Blinded Soldiers at Worthing nor of his chaplaincy of the City of London National Guard. Nor have I been able to do more than touch upon his numerous masonic duties.

Dr. Rosedale has ever taken a delight in facing and overcoming difficulties, and his life has been rich in action and enterprise. Its watchwords may be said to be " Courage in Service."

TOBACCO BLINDNESS

AT the International Optical Congress which took place at Oxford last month, Mr. J. H. Sutcliffe, the Chairman, introduced the subject of tobacco blindness, which, he said, was brought on by excessive smoking in combination with alcohol. Tobacco blindness was rarely found among women, and this was possibly due to the fact that women who smoked did not indulge excessively in alcohol. There had been no appreciable increase in tobacco blindness among women since smoking had become popular with them. The speaker said that glasses would not help a man who was suffering from tobacco blindness, but that the only thing for him to do was to give up tobacco and alcohol, and put himself in the care of a medical man. A test for tobacco blindness was the ability of patients to detect colours ; in the early stages the patient found it difficult to distinguish between light shades of grey and blue, and in very bad cases deeper colours were not distinguished.

Mr. Owen Aves, Chairman of the Refraction Hospital, London, in an interview with a *Daily Telegraph* representative, said " excessive smoking—and many people do smoke excessively nowadays—is certainly dangerous to the eye. As to what is an excessive amount of smoking, that depends very much upon the general health of the individual. I should say that the pipe smoker should keep within half an ounce a day, while the cigarette smoker should not permit himself more than ten cigarettes a day."

EVERY piece of work which is not as good as you can make it, which you have palmed off imperfect upon mankind, every hasty or slovenly or untrue performance, should rise up against you in the court of your own heart and condemn you for a thief.—*Robert Louis Stevenson.*

THE JUBILEE OF HARALD THILANDER

MR. W. PERCY MERRICK, Penso, Shepperton, writes as follows:— " Mr. Harald Thilander, who, although very deaf and quite blind, has for some years been the largest and most progressive publisher and printer of Braille in the three Scandinavian countries, will be fifty years old on the 25th of this month. In Sweden the ' jubilee ' is regarded as one of the greatest events in life, and all friends and acquaintances are expected to call and offer their congratulations. The readers of ' Esperanta Ligilo,' of which Mr. Thilander has been the publisher and hon. editor since 1912, are uniting to send him a slight token of their admiration, and I am compiling a list of all those who wish to offer their congratulations or to participate in the present. As we want to make the list as representative as possible, I should be glad if all his English friends would send me a congratulatory post-card as soon as possible."

A FINE RECORD

THE following extract, with the above heading, is taken from " The Musical Times," September issue :—

Mr. Amos Clarke, a blind organist, has just retired after fifty-six years of service at Coalville, Leicestershire. He was absent from duty on only two occasions. The Bishop of Leicester, in a letter to Mr. Clarke, says :—

> " Your record is wonderful, and the church owes very much to you. We are all proud of such a veteran. In the name of the diocese I thank you for the service you have rendered, and for your splendid example of service."

HENSHAW'S INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

AT the first meeting of the new Board of Henshaw's Institution for the Blind, Councillor J. Mathewson Watson was elected Chairman of the Board, Mr. Watson is a Vice-President of the National Institute for the Blind and a member of the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind.

THE ESPERANTO CONGRESS AT DANZIG

BY W. PERCY MERRICK

ALTOGETHER about a thousand members attended the Nineteenth Esperanto Congress at Danzig, from July 28th to August 4th last. The blind members, although they were not asked to pay the £1 subscription fee, were free to attend all the items of a rather crowded official programme, the balls, meetings and lectures, and the service in the fine Marienkirche, but they also found time to hold a little Congress of their own.

THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BLIND ESPERANTISTS

Thirty-seven members were present, ten each from Great Britain and Germany, six each from Finland and Czecho-Slovakia, three Hungarians, one Norwegian, and Miss Melchior from Denmark. The opening meeting took place on the afternoon of July 30th in a beautiful assembly room of the Rathaus, and as it had been duly announced in the official Congress guidebook, a large number of seeing Esperantists were also present, including Dr. L. Zamenhof, an oculist of Warsaw and brother of the inventor of Esperanto; Mrs. Dave H. Morris, of New York, who has helped so materially to make known to the blind throughout the world the way in which blind workmen are employed in the Ford Motor Factory, and many other prominent Esperantists, all of whom were much impressed by the fluency with which the members from the various countries greeted the Congress and their enthusiastic praise of Esperanto as a means of international communication. Several other meetings of a more technical character were held at the Institute for the Blind, at which papers were read and many matters discussed.



BLIND ESPERANTISTS AT THE DANZIG CONGRESS

In one of these papers Mr. Joseph Kreitz, the President of the Blind Congress, said that in Germany wireless licences were granted free to the blind, and that the postal authorities had themselves instituted a fund, collected from wireless subscribers, for providing receiving sets to all blind persons in Germany through local societies. Those at a distance from wireless stations receive good valve sets. He suggested that the chief national associations for the blind should try to dispel popular prejudice against the employment of blind workmen by means of broadcasting. Miss Miksch, of Prague, pleaded for the more general and sympathetic training of blind women in housework. She had collected evidence of progress made in this respect in several countries which showed how much the blind woman could accomplish and how valuable such training has proved.

Prof. Stejskal and Miss Bartushkova described the work done in various factories by the blind in Czecho-Slovakia and the way in which the prejudice of employers has been reduced. Prof. Stejskal also dealt with memory and its development, and Miss Melchior described how she had experimented in developing the imagination of backward blind children with such success that the expert national inspector classed them above ordinary children of their age in intelligence. She exhibited a small and inexpensive apparatus used by some blind people in Copenhagen to protect themselves from traffic when going about alone. It is a disc on which the Danish words for "Help in traffic" are clearly written, with an electric light to show them

up at night. It can be carried in a small pocket and produced when required.

Most of the members of our little Congress stayed at the Blind Institution at Langfuhr, some twenty minutes by tram and foot from the centre of Danzig. It is a large building standing in extensive grounds which it shares with several other charitable institutions now maintained by the State. The Director and his staff were exceedingly kind, and provided everything they required. They had the pleasant garden to chat or get lost in, ample bedroom accommodation, and a large room for meetings and music-making. Some blinded soldiers who had rooms at a nominal rent in one of the buildings were very friendly. Each man had a good wireless set, and a big dog trained to act as a guide. Although I spent some very happy hours at the Institute chatting to foreign friends, I did not see over it, but Miss May Warren, who with four friends from Henshaw's, Manchester, seems to have enjoyed the Congress and the journey to and from Danzig by sea very thoroughly, has kindly given me some particulars. She says :—

" Before leaving, the Director very kindly showed us all over the Institution. There is a general workshop where they make brushes. All the work is wire-drawn, and some of the brushes are very fine, such as hair brushes and clothes brushes in black hair with a monogram in white. The women make brushes and do chair-caning, and the men make brushes and baskets. We quite fell in love with some of the basket chairs they had made. No knitting or mat making is done. . . . The thing that struck us most with regard to the Danzig people was their friendliness. They welcomed us like friends, treated us like friends, and parted with us like friends. If you want a ' sunshine holiday,' become an Esperantist and attend a Congress ! "

On August 4th several hundred Esperantists went on to Warsaw to pay homage to the author of the language by placing wreaths on his tomb, but my wife and I went instead to Sweden to visit Mr. and Mrs. Thilander, of whom I have already written in *The Beacon*. They have recently removed from Stockholm to one of its charming suburbs, Stocksund, where the air is fresh from the sea, and the red wooden houses play hide and seek amid tall pines and birches. One would think it should be a saddening experience to stay more than a week in a house where the host and hostess are quite blind and the host so deaf that none but his wife can speak to him, but when once one had heard the joyous welcome, sadness could find no place in our thoughts. So cheery they were, such careful thought they had bestowed on our comfort, such plans for our entertainment they had made ! It was only on leaving them that our hearts were heavy, for there were tears in their eyes. And yet the work had been going on during our visit, for the Braille press must be kept going, or the weekly Swedish magazine would be late, or " Esperanta Ligilo " behind its appointed time. We never had a dull moment during our visit.

Mr. Thilander stereotypes nearly all the work himself. He edits and prints several Braille magazines and he arranges the books for the higher education of the blind provided by the book fund organised by Herr Carl Thulin. He has two presses, electrically driven, and operated by a seeing assistant and two blind girls, and the work goes on so unobtrusively that one only realises its volume and importance when one sees a load of post-bags going off to the quaint little post office.

It was not until we were on our homeward way, on a boat with a few and uninteresting fellow passengers, that we realised how small a part physical limitations need play in life when a heart full of love and sympathy is directed by a strong will and a clear and active brain.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to 12th September, 930 wireless sets and 1,202 pairs of headphones have been distributed among the blind, the local associations acting as distributing centres.

As a result of the appeal, 373 wireless sets and 185 pairs of headphones have been received.

Donations from private sources, and grants from the National Institute for the Blind, have enabled the fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and distributed.

Readers should note that in future all wireless sets sent out by the National Institute for the Blind will remain the property of the Institute. When sets are no longer required by their users they should be returned to the Institute.

EVERYWHERE in life the true question is, not what we *gain*—but what we *do*.—*Carlyle*.

HANDBOOK ON THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND*



THERE has been issued by the Ministry of Health Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind a Handbook which should prove most useful "for the guidance of those engaged in work for the benefit of blind persons." In the space of 34 pages, the Committee have provided comprehensive information, and no worker for the blind should fail to obtain a copy. As is made clear in the opening sentences, the aim of this book is not primarily to appeal for interest and sympathy, but to set forth general facts as to blindness in England and Wales, including a history of the methods by which it is dealt with in this country and of legislation with regard to the subject, an analysis of the various categories of the blind, and an examination of the assistance available for each category. A section is devoted to the system of organisation responsible for the welfare of the blind.

A great deal of the matter given in the handbook has been referred to from time to time in these pages, and it would be superfluous to do more than touch upon some of the details given. It may, however, be as well to recall some important statistics to our readers as follows :—

The total number of blind persons recorded in England and Wales on the 31st of March, 1927, was 46,822, as compared with 42,140 on the 31st March, 1925, 36,518 on the 30th June, 1923, and 34,894 on the 1st April, 1921. There is reason to believe, according to the handbook, that the increase shown by these figures is due, not to an increase in the total number of blind persons, but to an increasing completeness in their registration. In 1927 there were 44,010 blind over sixteen years of age; of these, 9,160 were employed, 635 trained but unemployed, 1,704 under training, 844 not under training but trainable, and 31,667 unemployable. Over 67.6 per cent., therefore, of the total number of the blind in England and Wales are classed as unemployable. The distribution of blindness according to age periods was as follows :—

0—5	258	40—50	5,331
5—16	2,554	50—60	7,495
16—21	1,670	60—70	9,737
21—30	3,162	Over 70	11,958
30—40	4,474	Unknown	183

There follows an interesting section entitled "Development of Service for the Welfare of the Blind," in which we are told that the earliest known public institution established for the blind was presumably The Hospice des Quinze-Vingts in Paris, founded by St. Louis in 1260, principally for soldiers who had lost their sight in war. "From time to time, many charitable benefactors left bequests for the welfare of blind persons. . . . . Voluntary effort on an organised scale appears to have originated in 1784 when Valentin Haüy founded L'Institution Nationale Des Jeunes Aveugles in Paris, the first school for the blind opened in Europe. In 1790 the first institution of the kind in this country was established at Liverpool by Edward Rushton, who lost his own sight during a voyage in tending a cargo of negro slaves who were stricken with malignant ophthalmia; this institution still continues at Hardman Street, Liverpool. It was speedily followed by a blind asylum at Edinburgh. In 1793 the school in Bristol was founded, and in 1799 St. George's School in London (which is now the Royal School at Leatherhead) and the Waterloo Workshops. These were the first of a line of charitable endeavour for the blind in this country."

Following these interesting facts is an account of the Braille and Moon systems of reading and writing, attention being paid to the production of scientific text books in Braille. Then comes a brief account of legislation for the blind from 1601 to the present day, reference being made to the chapter on that subject in the National Institute's publication: "Handbook for Home Teachers of the Blind." Schemes under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, are then alluded to and a classification of the blind is given under the following headings :—(*a*) Children under five years of age; (*b*) Children over five and under sixteen; (*c*) Trainable blind; (*d*) Employable blind; (*e*) Unemployable blind. In the section devoted to the employable blind, information is given with regard to workshops for the blind, the trades practised there and the Home Workers' scheme. Non-manual workers are referred to, and the efforts recently initiated to

* Handbook on the Welfare of the Blind in England and Wales, published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, price sixpence net.

find work for blind persons in ordinary factories are recorded. The duties of the Home Teachers of the Blind are also briefly set out.

From the section dealing with the organisation of the administration, it may be as well to quote as follows :—

" The Ministry of Health and the Board of Education are the Departments of State responsible to Parliament for the welfare of the blind. The Board of Education deal with education, both elementary and higher. The Ministry of Health is the Central Department for all matters relating to the blind under the Blind Persons Act, and they administer the grants payable out of monies voted by Parliament for the welfare of the blind. Clearly the Ministry can only lay down a general policy and must leave the handling of individual cases to the voluntary agencies or the local authorities. The Ministry and the Board of Education have appointed Inspectors, some of whom are women, who are constantly visiting institutions, local authorities, and local committees throughout the country, and reporting to their Departments. In this way the Departments are kept in touch with local conditions, and the Inspectors are able by friendly advice and suggestion to share the experience gained. The grants paid by the Ministry amounted to £69,886 in 1921-2, and to £112,510 in 1926-7. To this must be added an expenditure from the Exchequer of some £360,000 a year on Old Age Pensions for the Blind, and a considerable sum (probably about £130,000) by way of grants through the Board of Education in connection with education and training.

" The Blind Persons Act, 1920, imposes on local authorities under that Act the duty of making arrangements to the satisfaction of the Minister of Health for promoting the welfare of blind persons ordinarily resident within their areas. . . . . The growth of the financial assistance rendered by local authorities may be judged from the fact that, while they voted £14,671 for this service in 1921-2, in 1925-6 they voted £135,946."

Information is then given as to the voluntary organisations, and a statement is made that the total income from voluntary sources of agencies recognised by the Ministry of Health for grant has risen from £378,535 in 1922-3 to £420,463 in 1924-5.

In the section devoted to the Prevention of Blindness, reference is made to the valuable report issued by the Departmental Committee on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts in September, 1922.

Very valuable information is given in the appendices to this book which contains (1) a summary of the grants payable for the blind by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education ; (2) the names of grant-aided voluntary agencies, with the addresses of the Secretaries ; (3) the scales of augmentation for blind employees in workshops recommended by the Advisory Committee ; (4) a note on old age pensions for the blind ; (5) a note on National Health Insurance and Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions ; and (6) a summary of official publications. Mr. Neville Chamberlain has written a preface commending the handbook. He believes that it will not only prove valuable to those who are already engaged in the work, but that " it will make a wide appeal to the public, who have always demonstrated their sympathy with those deprived of sight, and some of whom may perhaps be induced, after perusing this book, to offer their services in one of the many ways in which they will be welcome."

RECITALS BY BLIND ORGANISTS

IN connection with the National Institute's scheme, another series of Recitals by blind organists is taking place at St. Clement Danes, Strand, on the following dates :—

Wednesday, Oct. 5th, at 1.10 p.m.—Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.

Wednesday, Oct. 12th, at 1.10 p.m.—Mr. H. G. Pyne, F.R.C.O. (Assistant Music Master at the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind).

Wednesday, October 19th, at 1.10 p.m.—Mr. Sinclair Logan, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

Other events in connection with the scheme are :—

Monday, October 10th, at 7.45 p.m., at Dulwich Congregational Literary Society. Lecture, " The Blind Musician and his Work "—Mr. H. C. Warrilow (with piano and vocal illustrations taken from the works of British blind composers by Mr. Sinclair Logan).

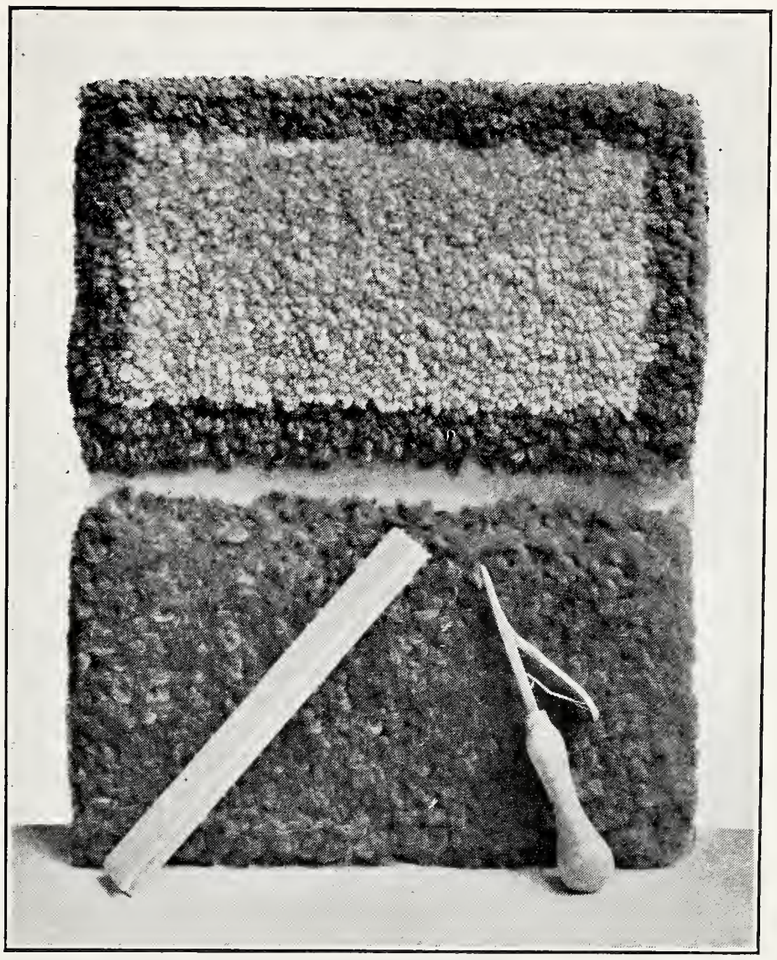
Tuesday, Oct. 25th. Lecture on the same subject at the Public School, Oundle, Northants.

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

WOOL RUG MAKING

HAND-MADE rugs, particularly those from the East, are among the most beautiful and treasured of the world's objects of art. True, we cannot hope to emulate the artistry and craftsmanship displayed in a Persian prayer rug, but we can at least follow afar off and make something which, though simple, will yet be a thing of beauty—none the less beautiful because it is useful. It may not be a " joy for ever," but at any rate it will stand a decade or so of hard wear, retaining meanwhile much of its original freshness and charm.

The work is pleasing, light and simple ; it has, however, the disadvantage from a money-making point of view of employing a rather expensive material. For example, the wool in a hearthrug measuring 36 ins. by 18 ins. will cost somewhere about 10/6, and to this must be added about 2/6 for the canvas and lining, thus bringing the cost for materials alone to about 13/-. In consequence, very little can be added as payment for the many hours of labour expended in making the rug if it is to be sold at anything like an economic price. We must, therefore, class this occupation as a pastime one, to be taken up for the pleasure to be derived from the work rather than for any monetary advantage likely to accrue from it.



A plain Rug made with Cable Wool; a Rug with light centre and dark border made with six-ply wool; a wooden gauge, and a rug-making implement.

But if the material is expensive the equipment is, on the other hand, quite the reverse, three items only being needed. These are (1) a wooden gauge (2d.), for cutting the wool into the uniform short lengths required. About eight inches long, with a groove along one edge, it is sold in two sizes, one about an inch in width, and the other about an inch and a quarter. It is important to have the wider one if cable wool is to be used ; for the thinner six-ply wool the one inch gauge is more suitable. The wool is wound evenly round and round the gauge and then cut along the groove with scissors or a sharp knife. (2) An implement for knotting the short lengths of wool on to the canvas base. Three main kinds are in use, namely, the old-fashioned plain rug hook, the rug hook with latch, and the improved rug-making implement with wooden handle. This is sold at about 6½d. under various names, such as the "Patent Rug Machine," and is recommended in preference to the older forms. The following method—which differs slightly from that given in the books on rug making issued by " Bestway," " Weldon's " and other similar publishers—is recommended for use by the sightless. Holding the implement in the right hand, push the point down through a hole in the canvas and up through the hole immediately beyond it, *i.e.*, the next hole away from the worker. The implement can now be left while both hands are used to loop one of the short pieces of wool underneath the implement on the near side, drawing it close up to the canvas. The two ends of the loop are now held evenly between the forefinger and thumb

of the left hand, the implement is held with the right hand and the jaws opened by pressing the thumb on the lever, and the two ends of wool are inserted just within the jaws which are then closed by releasing the lever. Next pull the implement towards you, which will result in the two ends being drawn under the ridge of the canvas and through the loop, thus knotting the wool securely on to the canvas. Liberate the wool by pressing down the lever, and, lastly, pull the two free ends quite tight with the fingers. A pair of scissors (3) completes the equipment. The most comfortable working position is to sit at a table with the work upon it. As each row is completed it is turned under, thus presenting the holes for the next row just at the bend, which makes it easier to insert the implement. An apron or overall, provided with two large pockets so that cut wool of two colours can be kept in a handy position, is worn. When work is discontinued the apron is simply rolled up leaving the wool in the pockets ready for use when work is resumed.

Wool for rug making is of two kinds, cable and six-ply, both costing from 3/6 per lb. according to quality. It takes 12 ozs. of the cable wool, worked into every other hole of the canvas to do one square foot of rug, and only 10 ozs. of the six-ply, although this is worked into every hole. For this reason and also because it is easier to work and patterns can be formed more clearly with it, the six-ply is recommended; but there is no reason why the worker should not try his hand with the cable wool also which has the advantage of being curly and lustrous and requires only half the number of knots. Rug canvas is sold in various widths, usually 12 in., 18 in., 27 in., 36 in., 40 in., and 46 in. For large carpets two or more strips may be made up and then joined together by stitching with strong linen thread. Wool rugs are rendered more durable if the underside is lined with hessian, thin felt, fine canvas or thin glazed material, the edges of the lining material being turned up and oversewn to the rug.

A Plain Black Rug.—Black rugs are always popular, and a small size, say 27 ins, by 12 ins., for a doorway, would be a good subject for an initial effort. Canvas 12 ins. wide is used, and it is always necessary to have three or four inches more than the proposed length of rug, so that the canvas can be turned over at each end (on to the top side) and the first three and last three rows worked through double canvas. The canvas is placed on the table running lengthwise away from the worker and each row of knots is worked right across from left to right. Coloured wool can, of course, be used instead of black if preferred.

Speckled Rug.—A pretty speckled effect can be obtained by using two suitable colours in the following manner: Put in three knots of No. 1 colour, then one of No. 2, then three of No. 1 again, and continue in this way to the end of the row. In the next row begin with one knot of No. 1, then three of No. 2, one of No. 1, and so on for the rest of the row. The third row is worked the same as the first, and the rows alternated in like manner throughout the rug.

Two-Colour Rug.—This has a light (or speckled) centre with a darker border all round. Work the first ten rows and the last ten with the darker colour, and for each of the other rows work ten knots of the darker colour at the beginning and ten at the end.

A. G. K.

ATHLONE BLIND SCHOOL

AMONG the many wide interests of H.R.H. Princess Alice is her care for and interest in the welfare of the blind. A most successful concert was held in the City Hall, Capetown, to raise funds for the Athlone Blind School, under the patronage of H.R.H. and the Archbishop of Capetown, and arranged by the Spes Bona Orchestral and Choral Society. It may not be generally known, says *South Africa*, that to Grahamstown, and to the initiative of a lady living there, this attitude of sympathy for the lot of the blinded is mainly due, and that there is a fine Braille library there for the use of blinded people who greatly appreciate the boon afforded by a large number of books provided for their use.

"THE English and Amateur Mechanics" publishes the following from a correspondent:—"As a sedentary hobby, suitable for an elderly man, who is blind but useful with his hands, but not expert in anything (except geometrical drawing), what can be recommended? Preferably something useful. What about Braille?

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Empire.

2370 St. John, Chapter 6 (Giant Type) 4 6
2380-2381 Short Sermons, by Canon Liddon, 2 vols.... ... ... per vol. 10 6
2382 Quarterly Intercession Paper (No. 106, 4th Quarter, 1927) 5 6

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
	CLASSICS.	
Ovid, Selections from (Ed. by C E. Freeman)	...	2
	ENGLISH LITERATURE.	
Bacon, Francis.	The Wisdom of the Ancients ...	2
Tolkein, J. R. R.	Middle English Vocabulary ...	6
	ESSAYS AND BELLES LETTRES.	
Sainte-Beuve, C. A.	Portraits of Men	3
	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Foligno, C.	Italian Literature	1
	POETRY AND DRAMA.	
Chesterton, G. K.	Ballad of the White Horse ...	1
	SCIENCE.	
Lodge, Sir Oliver.	Modern Scientific Ideas	1
	THEOLOGY AND RELIGION.	
Brabant, F. H.	Faith and Truth	2
Steiner, R.	Spiritual Guidance of Mankind	1
Steiner, R.	Theosophy...	2

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
LIST OF ADDITIONS
September, 1927.

FICTION.

Burnett, Mrs. F. H. Through One Administration ... ... 9 vols.
Clouston, J. Storer. The Lunatic Still at Large ... ... 3 vols.
Farjeon, Eleanor. Faithful Jennie Dove ... 3 vols.
Galsworthy, J. The Silver Spoon ... ... 4 vols.
Haggard, Sir H. Rider. Ancient Allan ... 4 vols.
Haggard, Sir H. Rider. The Wizard ... ... 3 vols.
Jameson, Storm. The Pitiful Wife ... ... 5 vols.
Macdonald, G. Alec Forbes of Howglen ... 9 vols.
Montgomery, L. M. Chronicles of Avonlea ... 4 vols.
Muir, A. Black Pavilion ... ... 3 vols.
Perrin, Alice. Government House ... ... 4 vols.
"Saki." Toys of Peace and other Papers ... 3 vols.
Stephens, J. Crock of Gold ... ... 3 vols.
Wallace, E. Sinister Man ... ... 5 vols.
Wallace, E. Terrible People ... ... 4 vols.
Wren. P. C. Beau Sabreur ... ... 5 vols.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Brinton, S. Golden Age of the Medici ... 4 vols.
Buchan, J. Homilics and Recreations ... 5 vols.
Cook, Augusta. Wonders of Divine Prophecy (3 Lectures) ... ... 1 vol.
Cook, Augusta. Communism ... ... 1 vol.
Cook, Augusta. Whole Counsel of God and other Lectures ... ... 1 vol.
Eliot, George. Letters of, with introduction by R. B. Johnson ... ... 3 vols.
Fraser, J. F. Land of Veiled Women (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco)... ... ... 4 vols.
Garlick, P. L. Uganda Contrasts ... ... 1 vol.
Knutsford, Viscount. In Black and White ... 6 vols.
Morton, H. V. The Heart of London ... 3 vols.
Newman, Cardinal. Discourses to Mixed Congregations ... ... 5 vols.
Oman, C. Seven Roman Statesmen of the Later Republic ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund") ... ... 6 vols.
Pollard, A. F. Thomas Cranmer and the English Reformation ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund") ... ... 6 vols.
Quinlan, May. Father Damien ... ... 2 vols.
Tabor, M. E. Pioneer Women (Elizabeth Fry, Elizabeth Blackwell, Florence Nightingale, Mary Slesser) ... ... 2 vols.
Temple, Bishop. Universality of Christ (Four Lectures delivered at Glasgow, 1921) ... 2 vols.
Trevelyan, G. M. Manin and the Venetian Revolution, 1848 ("E. W. Austin Memorial Fund") ... ... 4 vols.

GRADE 1.

Strang, Mrs. H. Neddy ... ... 1 vol.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND are anxious to obtain the following back numbers of the **BEACON,** for which they offer 6d. per copy :—

1917: January, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.
1918: May, June, July.
1919: January, February, April, May, June, August, September, November, December.
1923: July.
1924: March, July.
1925: February.

Will readers willing to supply these communicate (without sending the copies in the first instance) with the MAGAZINE DEPARTMENT, National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, W.1.

WANTED—Home Teacher (sighted) for Worcestershire. Cyclist. Salary, £156 per annum to qualified teacher, £132 if unqualified. Apply Miss MENCE, Hon. Sec., 33 Battenhall Road, Worcester.

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the September Numbers)

Progress.—Love Romances of our "Stately Homes"—Our Daily Bread—"Bring me a Bradshaw"—A Windy Shore—Reflections—An Appreciation of a Day at Folkestone—National Institute for the Blind: Annual Report—Correspondence—Question Box—Matters of the Moment—Our Prize Competition—Advertisements—A Page of Nuggets—French Page: Moyens d'Existence—Fiction: "Old Winsome"; "The Bride's Blossom." Supplements: "Progress" Chess; Home Occupations for the Blind: Braid Weaving; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—The Surge of Life in Plant and Animal—Chess in History and Fiction (concluded)—William Blake—Reviews of New Books—Notices—Can Newspapers tell the Truth?—The Literary Business—Creating a New Language. (Subscription: 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—The Motor Car and its Story: No. 3, Building the Car—Cæsar's Governor of Britain—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—The Elephant at Home—Supplements: "Comrades"; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Digestive Processes and Some of the Factors which influence them—Massage for Stiff Shoulders—Of Special Interest to our Members—Fractures of the Femur. Supplements: "Massage Journal" Inset: Member's Congress; Official Notices; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Schumann's Organ Figures—Our Tuners' Column—Obituary—Two Organ Loft Changes—A Fine Record of Service—Correspondence—Canada's Great Carillon—Recitals by Blind Organists—The Little Organ Book of Bach. Supplements: Braille Music Reviews; Announcements. Inset: Piano: "Rosemary," by F. Bridge; Song: "Call," by R. Vaughan Williams. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Resumé of Programmes Broadcast from Stations (England and Wales) of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Light-Bringer.—From the Braille Room: New Book in Library "American Star Theosophist"; Verses for Chain of Union; Prayer for Peace; "The Fellowship of Faiths"; A Letter—Our attitude to Health, by E. A. Gardner—Thought Power (Chapter VI), by Mrs. Besant—Theosophy and Christianity, by C. M. Codd—Christmas at Hurizen, by G. Hodson—When Friends Meet, by One of Them—The Finding of Christ, by C. Jinarajadasa, M.A.—The Spiritual Commandments.

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—The Science of Horology—Parliamentary Bills—News Items—The Poet's Corner—Legal Notes—Favourite Quotations—The Year 1920, and After—Correspondence—Stageland—Wood Notes Wild. Supplements: Literary: "The Professor"; "For a Young Friend" (Poem); Music: Verdi's "Rigoletto" by T. W. Wilkinson; Song: "The Sweetest Flower that Blows"; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—Review of a New Book (John o' London's Weekly)—A Camp Fire in the King's Forest—Canada Remembers (Children's Newspaper)—What was Under the Orchard?—News in a Purse—The Guild of Church Braillists and the National Library for the Blind—Gabriel Samara, Book II (Chapters III and IV), E. Phillips Oppenheim—Thought for the Month—Hunting the Whale (John o' London's Weekly)—Zoo Cannibals—(Daily Mail)—Everybody's Friend—New Coins for the Free State. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 1s. 8d. per month, post free.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1927

NOVEMBER Vol. XI No. 131

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	CHURCH—		
8042	" Quis est homo," Duet for Two Sopranos from " Stabat Mater," by Rossini	2	0
	ORGAN—		
8043	Sonata No. 4 in E minor, by Bach (Bar by bar)	2	0
8044	" Exultation," by Chastey, Hector (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8045	Romance in E, by B. Luard-Selby (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8046	" Coronation March," from " Le Prophète," by Meyerbeer (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO—		
	ASSOCIATED BOARD EXAMINATIONS, 1928—Studies and Pieces—		
8047	Primary Division, Lists A, B, C (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8048	Elementary Division, Lists A, B, C (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	4
8049	Lower Division, Lists A and B (Bar by bar), pocket size	3	0
8050	Higher Division, List B (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8051	Intermediate Grade, List C (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8052	" Gopak " (Russian National Dance), by Arnold Bax (Bar by bar)	2	0
8053	Sonata No. 25 in G, Op. 79, Macpherson's edition (Bar by bar), by Beethoven	2	8
8054	" Spring's Awakening " (Arpeggio Valse), by H. Dennison (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
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8056	" To Heather and Harebell," by Leo Livens (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8057	Barcarolle in G, by Stewart Macpherson (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8058	Six Old English Tunes, by E. T. Sweeting (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	DANCE—		
8059	" Blue Pipes of Pan," Song Fox-Trot, by H. Hedley and J. Strachey (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8060	" Blue Days," Song Fox-Trot, by S. Holt (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8061	" Bolshevik," Song Fox-Trot, by M. Jaffe and N. Bonx (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8062	" In a little Spanish Town," Song-Waltz, by M. Wayne (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
8063	" The Milkmaid " (Unison Song), by T. F. Dunhill, pocket size	2	0
8064	" Chanson de Florian," by Benjamin Godard (C : Compass C to E′)	2	0
8065	" To Warrior X " (for use on Armistice Day), by Haydn Grover (C minor : Compass B, to E′), pocket size	2	0
8066	" Little White Rose," by Liza Lehmann (C : Compass C to D′), pocket size	2	0
8067	" On the Road," by Ernest Longstaffe (F : Compass C to E′), pocket size	2	0
8068	" Sometimes when Night is nigh," by H. Lyall Phillips (C : Compass A, to D′), pocket size	2	0
8069	" O, Ship of my Delight," by Montague Phillips (B flat : Compass C to F′), pocket size	2	0
8070	" Time to go " (Shanty Ballad), by W. Sanderson (D : Compass A, to D′ pocket size	2	0
8071	" A Wayside Prayer," by F. E. Tours (A flat : Compass E to E′), pocket size	2	0
8072	" Speak, Earth, Speak ! " by Alison Travers (C : Compass C to F′), pocket size	2	0
8073	" Captain Stratton's Fancy," by Peter Warlock (F : Compass C to F′), pocket size	2	0

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

	FICTION—			
7701-7703	Green Mansions, by W. H. Hudson, 3 vols.	per vol.	6	3
7759	Miss Mary Paske from " Here and Beyond," by Edith Wharton		1	6
7693-7695	The Great Valley, by Mary Johnston, 3 vols.	per vol.	8	9
7459-7461	The Three Mulla-Mulgars, by Walter de la Mare, 3 vols.	per vol.	5	9
7396-7400	The White Company, by A. Conan Doyle, 5 vols.	per vol.	6	6

(*Continued on page 3 of cover*)

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XI.—NO. 131. NOVEMBER, 1927. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, 1926-27



THE Eighth Annual Report of the Ministry of Health was published this Autumn, a section being devoted to the subject of "The Welfare of the Blind." A great deal of the matter is contained in the Handbook on "The Welfare of the Blind," which we reviewed in our last issue.

It is of interest to read that on the 31st March, 1927, 14,563 blind persons in England and Wales, between the ages of fifty and seventy, were in receipt of Old Age Pensions on account of blindness, in accordance with Section I of the Blind Persons Act, as compared with 13,663 on the same date last year. According to the latest returns, there are 15,048 blind persons between the ages of fifty and seventy, so that 97 per cent. of the total number included in this group are receiving pensions under this section.

Schemes under Section II of the Act for promoting the welfare of the blind are stated to be in operation in the areas of each of the 145 local authorities under the Act, and the development of the work under these schemes is steadily proceeding. The report states that probably the most important development during recent years has been the increased consideration given to the circumstances and requirements of the unemployable class of the blind. As mentioned in our review of the Handbook, financial assistance rendered by local authorities amounted to £135,946 in the year 1925-26, and, according to the Ministry of Health report, it is estimated that the sum for 1926-7 will be £173,828.

It may be of interest to our readers to ascertain how the grant of £112,510, which was distributed during the year among all voluntary agencies and local authorities in respect of the grant-earning services for the blind performed by them, has been distributed. This has taken place as follows :—

	£
Counties' Associations ..	8,428
Workshops	42,212
Home Workers	20,007
Homes	7,628
Hostels	1,001
Home Teaching	23,209
Tools and Equipment ..	418
Book Production	6,552
Capital Expenditure ..	3,035
Miscellaneous	20
	£112,510

Nearly all the services, says the report, show progressive increases since the introduction of grants from the Department, indicating that additional blind persons are steadily being brought within the scope of these services. Between the years 1921-22 and 1926-27, there has been an increase of 65 per cent. in the grants paid on employment services (workshops and home workers), and as the grants are paid on a capitation basis, this implies that approximately 65 per cent. more blind persons are now working under approved conditions of employment than in 1921-22, principally through the development of home workers' schemes. There are now 360 home teachers in respect of whom the Department

are paying grants. Of these 102 have already obtained the Home Teaching Certificate of the College of Teachers of the Blind, 136 have still to obtain it, and 122 are exempt because they were appointed before the 1st April, 1923.

The Second Section ends with a record of the number of blind persons, as detailed in our review of the Handbook, and mention is made of the Wireless Telegraphy (Blind Persons' Facilities) Act, 1926, under which wireless licences are issued free to registered blind persons who are not resident in a public or charitable institution or a school.

THE ANNUAL CHARITIES REGISTER AND DIGEST, 1927

WE call the special attention of our readers to the Annual Charities Register and Digest for 1927, of which a section (considerably enlarged from that of previous years) is devoted to societies and institutions for the blind. These are arranged alphabetically under the following headings :—

" Administrative Agencies,"
" Pensions,"
" Homes for Men, Women and Children,"
" Maintenance, Education and Employment,"
" Education and Employment for Non-Residents."

In each case the information given is concise and to the point.

The National Institute for the Blind heads the list of " Administrative Agencies," its chief activities are enumerated, together with some vital figures regarding income, etc., and the names of its head officials. Similar information is given with respect to the remaining administrative agencies.

The section devoted to " Pensions " includes those societies which, in addition to granting weekly or other pecuniary assistance, aim at the general improvement of the condition of the blind, and their education and training, whilst some of the institutions in the sub-sections " Maintenance, Education and Employment " and " Education and Employment " grant pecuniary and other assistance.

The National Institute for the Blind, the Charity Organisation Society and Gardner's Trust have arranged for the joint issue of a Handbook to take the place of the booklet entitled " Information with regard to Institutions, Societies and Classes for the Blind in the United Kingdom " issued by Gardner's Trust for the Blind. This will consist of a separate issue of the " blind " section of the Charities Register and Digest together with an index of the Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind which, it is hoped, will prove helpful to those engaged in work for the Blind.

WORCESTER COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

WORCESTER College for the Higher Education of the Blind has made an appeal for public help through the Press, which it is hoped will meet with success.

The College owes its foundation in 1866 to the Rev. H. Blair, who was a former master at King's School, Worcester. He was given the task of preparing a totally blind boy for entering into Trinity College, Dublin, and as a result of that experience, he determined to establish an institution on public school lines for blind and defective-sighted boys. His conviction that the blind were capable of benefiting by the highest education was strikingly confirmed by the record of the first pupil, who, on his way to the M.A. degree at Trinity College, Dublin, won six open prizes.

There are over forty pupils, ranging in age from eight to nineteen, and it is impossible to take more until the necessary extensions have been carried out. Of the £50,000, for which the present appeal is being made, something like half is required for immediate necessities. According to Mr. Guy Nickalls, in an interview with a " Daily Telegraph " correspondent, the imperative needs of the College include additional class-room and other accommodation.

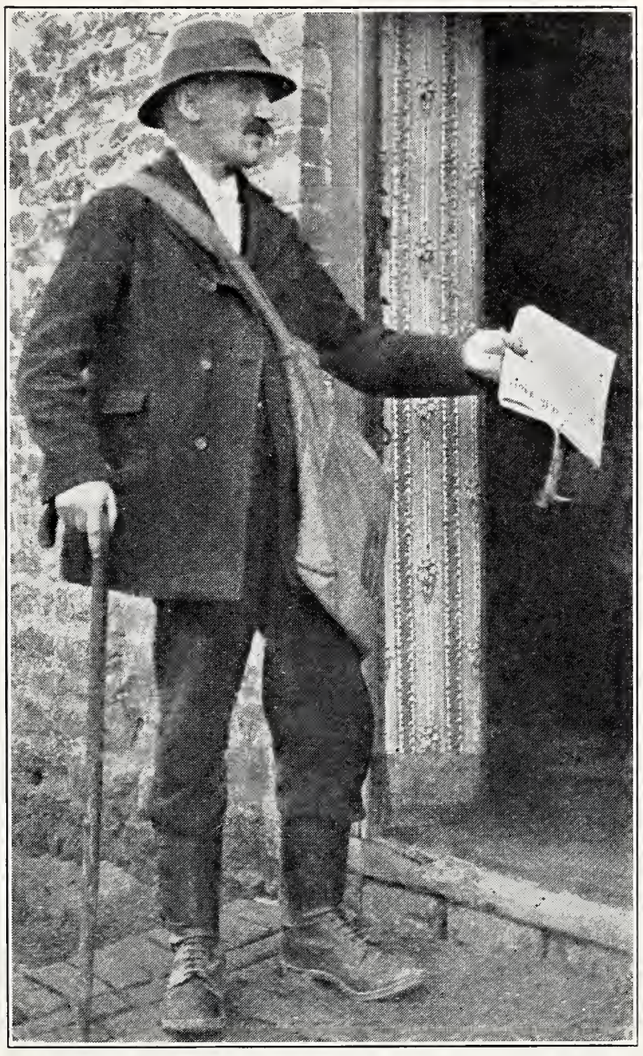
Over ninety boys have graduated from Worcester College at the Universities, and many have obtained high honours; over thirty have taken holy orders. Others have been successful as solicitors, barristers, musicians, school masters, and business men. There is a waiting list of applicants for entry to the College.

As most of our readers will recollect, the National Institute for the Blind has considerably helped Worcester College financially in the past. As far as the present appeal is concerned, the Institute has given £250 as a first subscription, and has promised a further £250 if the first £10,000 has been raised.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—In reviewing the year's work of this Institution, steady development is reported in all branches. Subscriptions and donations showed an increase totalling the sum of £6,830, £1,435 more than the amount received in the preceding year. Regular weekly grants to nearly 200 needy blind persons amounted approximately to £2,000, whilst gifts in kind cost £760. Seven new pupils were admitted to the workshops, in which no short time was experienced, in spite of the industrial dispute. The new weaving department is well established, and a fourth loom is about to be added. Maintenance grants to trainees amounted to £1,480, and augmentation of workers' earnings to £2,278. A small company of blind and semi-blind Girl Guides is reported as greatly enjoying their activities. Besides craftwork, continuation classes in general subjects have been carried on with much benefit. The home teachers have had a very busy year.

Of great interest is the information with regard to individual cases in the county, illustrated by photographs of blind people and their various occupations — old people listening in, a blind dairymaid milking a cow, a blind girl engaged in farm work, a blind man at work in his carpenter's shop, and a blind newsvendor whose portrait is reproduced on this page. This man delivered newspapers for many years over a wide district, walking 16 miles a day. Advancing years and increasing deafness, together with the multiplied dangers of the roads, made it necessary to curtail his rounds. The "big" round was given up at the completion of 25 years' service, when it was estimated he had walked 25,000 miles.



A BLIND NEWSVENDOR

* * *

SOUTHAMPTON ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.—The number on the register of this Association is 187. Home teaching and visiting has formed an important item of the work during the period under review, the number of visits paid amounting to 1,953. The Home Workers' Scheme continues to be a great asset to the employable blind. The annual grants included one of £300 from the National Institute for the Blind, and a Ministry of Health grant for £70.

* * *

BEDFORD SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND.—Steady progress is reported by this Society, which states that it has received subscriptions and donations to the value of £658 during the past year. The sum of £907 was paid to blind people. Fourteen home workers now receive the Government subsidy to their wages, which includes Health and Unemployment Insurance where necessary. A grant of £399 was received from the Ministry of Health, and grants from other sources included one of £400 from the Bedford County Council. Sales to the value of £508 were effected, and the sum of £475 was paid to workers.

* * *

THE ST. JOHN'S GUILD FOR THE BLIND.—We have received the fourth annual report of this Guild, which announces that three new branches have been formed during the year, at Bournemouth, Sunderland and

Nottingham ; it is hoped to form more small branches later.

Eighteen members were helped to take a holiday during the summer, and an annual sale of work was held in November. Attention is called to the library, which contains works of a religious nature. One of the most important activities of the Guild is arranging for guides to accompany members of the Guild into Retreat. The publication of the St. John's Guild Mass Book at the popular price of 6d. filled a long-felt need.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

AS usual, September has been a month of preparation for the autumn and winter programme, but Mr. Preece received invitations to speak from the Guelph and Stuart Masonic Lodges, and also visited the Watford Men's Own Society. The same afternoon Mr. Williams addressed the Hammersmith Brotherhood, and on September 30th was the speaker at the Camberwell Circle annual concert.

This popular event always draws a crowded house, and the varied programme provided by local and blind artistes was received with enthusiasm. A short meeting was held during the interval ; Councillor Arthur Bateman presided, and was supported by Councillors Percy Clarke and Brockwell. Lady Capel Cure was the principal speaker, and endorsed Mr. Williams' appeal in warm-hearted words which touched the hearts of all present. Mrs. S. Agutter, in thanking her for her presence, presented a bouquet on behalf of the workers for the blind in Camberwell. Mr. Franklin Agutter—whom we are glad to know has been re-elected as the Hon. Secretary of the Circle—and his Committee are to be congratulated on adding still another to their growing list of successful events. It should be mentioned that all expenses were paid by the results of parties given in advance by members of the Committee.

AT THE BARCLAY HOME, BRIGHTON

A CORRESPONDENT to the " Sussex Daily News " brightly describes a little festival at the Barclay Home as follows :—

" The pupils' dining room at the Barclay Home for the Blind, in Wellington Road, Brighton, was looking most festive when I visited it recently. The tables were gay with autumn flowers and foliage, and piled high on a special table were beautiful black and white grapes, delicious looking pears and rosy apples, oranges, bananas, cakes of all kinds, some gaily iced, eggs, tomatoes, jam and pickles ; while, near at hand, were arranged prize vegetables in great variety.

" On enquiring the reason for this beautiful display of the good things of the earth, I was told that, for a number of years, a gift in this form had come from the Islingword Road Mission Harvest Festival. I congratulated the Barclay Home on having such kindness in its midst, and came away feeling that members of the Islingword Road Mission had indeed praised the Giver of all good things."

WORCESTER COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

THE following successes were obtained by present boys at the College during examinations held in July :—

A. W. Ramsbottom—Oxford University Responsions.

G. P. Jones—Durham University Matriculation.

R. Ash—Oxford and Cambridge School Certificate with Credits in French, Oral French, English, Scripture, History, Mathematics and Advanced Mathematics.

G. Miller—Oxford and Cambridge Lower Certificate with Firsts in French, Oral French, English and History.

R. Cross—Oxford and Cambridge Lower Certificate with Firsts in English and History.

MISSION TO THE OUTDOOR BLIND

The Mission to the Outdoor Blind of Glasgow, which has now entered upon its 68th year of service to the sightless, employs 12 certificated home teachers, who seek and regularly visit and teach in their own homes all blind persons who, by reason of age or infirmity, are unsuited for institutional treatment.

The activities of the Mission cover Glasgow and the counties of Argyll, Bute, Dumbarton, Renfrew, Lanark, Ayr, Dumfries, Wigtown, and Kirkcudbright.

THE BLIND IN JAPAN



VERY interesting article on the Blind in Japan appears in the June issue of "The Outlook for the Blind." It is written by U. Akiba, teacher in the Tokyo School for the Blind, and we give extracts below :

"It seems to us that the lot of the blind in the past in Japan was rather a sad one just as in any other country. Before our systems of education were well regulated, and even since, the blind world has been left far behind that of the seeing. So the blind have not been able to receive such a systematic education as have the seeing for a long time, but with few exceptions they have been neither the objects of charity nor beggars, though ever held as objects of pity like all other helpless beings among us, and especially the Imperial Courts have always bestowed some share of attention on their relief.

"Japan has experienced two great Renaissances, one called the Renovation of Taikwa when the country was opened to Chinese civilisation 1,281 years ago, and the other designated the Restoration of Meiji, at the beginning of contact with the Western and American culture and institutions sixty years ago.

"The former was merely Oriental, while the latter was world-wide; and although, with each Renaissance, the blind in our country engaged the attention of the people as a conspicuous element of society, an active interest in providing an education for the blind was also aroused among some philanthropists, particularly during the Restoration of Meiji. It need scarcely be mentioned that it was influenced by the introduction of the humanitarianism, culture and education which were then blooming in Europe and America.

"The blind in Japan have been protected and trained, in one occupation or another, from time immemorial; and as the result of many years of successful trial, massage, shampooing, acupuncture and the Japanese music, which consists of Samisen and Koto, both string instruments, have been picked out as the most suitable occupations for the blind, and they are, even to-day, playing their parts. So it is very clear that instead of being a burden to society, the blind have been well able to support themselves.

"In 843, Prince Hitoyasu was born, the fourth son to the 54th Emperor Ninmyo, and appointed governor of the two provinces when he was quite young; but unfortunately losing all his sight of eye-disease at his twenty-eighth year, he entered the priesthood. Being a man of high education, he was well versed in the Japanese and Chinese literatures and also had a deep interest in music. He sometimes invited the blind who lived in Kyoto (then the capital of Japan) and in that neighbourhood, to the parties he held for their recreation ; and he took delight in poetry and music with them on those occasions. He also generously divided the products from his own fief among the same blind as alms every year.

"After his death, by his will such alms were given to the blind all over the country by the successive Emperors. He was benevolence itself, and has been respected as a patron of the blind. The subsequent sympathy for the blind and protection of them originated through his realisation of their needs. Afterward, in the beginning of the 17th century, in addition to the alms from the Emperors, subscriptions from the Tokugawa Shogun, leader of the military families, and from some people who gave to commemorate lucky events and unlucky affairs which had happened in their own homes, were distributed among the blind as the pay for their prayers that peace might reign over the land.

"In 866, in memory of the blind Prince Hitoyasu, his blind attendants were for the first time appointed as officers for the blind by the 55th Emperor Koko, brother of Hitoyasu, on the recommendation of the Empress Dowager, mother of the beloved Hitoyasu.

"There were formerly two classes of blind in our country—one, the Todo by name, consisted of blind laymen, and the other, the Moso, of blind monks. The Prince Hitoyasu is called the father of the former. And after that, many government posts and ranks for the blind were established and the officers were appointed and the ranks conferred among the Todo, to look after the welfare of the blind throughout the country. The chief officer was called formerly 'Kengyo,' and the next, 'Sokengyo,' who, followed by many 'Kengyo' and others, supervised all the blind of the Todo class. At first 'Kengyo,' 'Sokengyo,' the most honourable posts, and

others were won not only by ability in massage, acupuncture or music, but also by character—that is, character was an important factor for the qualifications of 'Kengyo' and 'Sokengyo.' But afterward, the blind who had more or less ability offered some money to 'Sokengyo' according to the posts they wished—that is to say, they bought their posts with money. And the money the blind paid for the positions was divided among the officers as salaries. So sometimes capable blind men became officers; but, again, there were many nominal officers. However, I dare say the highest position such as 'Sokengyo' could never be won without ability and character. Such an evil custom came from the immoral policy by which they wanted to feather their nests without working. So some of them were not only appointed to honourable posts and had high ranks conferred but also made much money, and at last there were some who carried on the trade of money lenders to supply such people with money to buy their positions.

"At the same time the Government increased the tax which had long been levied throughout the country for the benefit of the blind, while a poor rate was levied for the blind and they had only to pay a small fee to the guild of their own locality. Besides, the Government protected them in every possible way. For example, in those days, when disputes arose between creditors and debtors, the judges used to favour the debtor, or the poorer side. But whenever a blind person was concerned in the dispute, the judges favoured him, whether creditor or debtor. So far they were cared for very well, the Government protected them as objects of pity and overlooked their evil deeds, but some blind persons always took advantage of this protection and indulgence.

"The essential occupations of the blind in the Todo class in the past were to play Biwa, a kind of musical instrument, to recite a sutra and to pray that heaven and earth might be eternal, the Imperial Throne last long, peace reign over the land and the country be safe; and for these prayers they were paid. But, on the other side, many blind persons stood against such evil enterprise, and some made Koto and Samisen and others massage, shampooing and acupuncture respectively their professions, and a very few occupied themselves with literature.

"These professions had originated in ancient times, but some blind persons, elaborating their arts, started new schools and transmitted them from generation to generation—for example, Yatsuhashi Kengyo, Ikuta Kengyo, and Yamada Kengyo being fathers of Koto; Ishimura Kengyo, of Samisen; Yamase Kengyo and Sugiyama Kengyo, of acupucture; Kosaka Kengyo, of massage; and Hanawa Sokengyo and others, of Japanese literature. Especially among others Hanawa—early-blind—had such a retentive memory and extensive learning as to have attained everlasting fame by compiling voluminous histories and other elaborate works amounting to about one thousand volumes. Mr. M. Anagnos gives, in his 'Education of the Blind,' a detailed account of this fact as follows:—

"'It is curious that a pagan and uncivilised nation should have set a good example to enlightened Christians in this respect. It is stated, in Charlevoix's history, that in Japan the blind were long ago made to fill a comparatively useful sphere. The government kept a large number of them in an establishment, and their business was to learn the history of the Empire through all the remote ages, to arrange it systematically by chapter and verse in their memories, and to transmit it from generation to generation, thus forming a sort of perennial walking and talking library of useful historical knowledge.' And we have other blind men who practised some work of this kind.

"The Moso class of blind monks was organised by the most famous Buddhist Kukwai. It belongs to the Tendai Sect of Buddhism, and the blind monks made it their important work to play Biwa, to travel here and there for study and to pray for the people for the safety in four seasons and in the hottest period of summer, for alms.

"As you see, though there were some defects and weak points in the blind world, most of the blind were trained with strict regulations in their guilds and did their best to elaborate their arts and to develop their character.

"In the year 1870, a great change was made. The Government caught many new world-wide inspirations, and at the same time found our conventional systems to be irrational and abolished the posts of the blind officials, doing away altogether with the poor rate and reliefs for them. This, cruel as it may appear, has been a great blessing in disguise; for under the old *regime*, the blind were always objects of pity and indulgence, and in fact were in the

long run killed with too much kindness. Under present conditions, however, they are sympathised with and helped to help themselves, much to their improvement as useful members of society.

" Dr. R. S. French discusses in his ' The Education of the Blind ' as follows :—' No subject has more seriously engaged the attention of those who have given thought to the condition of the blind than that of trades and occupation.

" ' Long before education had assumed the aspect of a problem, socially-minded individuals and institutions had given some attention to their industrial possibilities. In at least two important instances a solution well in accord with the social development and prosperity of the people as a whole had been found. These instances are those of the blind fortune-tellers of China and the blind masseurs of Japan. The latter demand our further attention at this point because of two noteworthy aspects, namely, their training and the formation of a guild with virtual monopoly of massage '—the blind people with us have made quite a class by themselves through monopoly of some occupations peculiar to them—such as massage, acupuncture, and, in particular, music. And up to very recently none but the blind, with a few exceptions, were engaged in the above occupations.

" Of late, however, seeing people have entered into the same arena as the blind, and the competition is in consequence becoming a keen one. And this is an unavoidable circumstance in our country ; for first of all we have a big population, and not so many jobs in proportion to it ; and with the introduction of Western and American material civilisation, our mode of living growing less simple and the competition of living getting more keen, some seeing people are now obliged to invade even the particular field of the blind. Thus the blind in Japan will have in the future to stand shoulder to shoulder with the seeing in the competition of living, and enjoy all the advantages of the seeing.

" To quote Dr. French again, ' Massage as a means of maintaining good health is much older and better known in the Far East than in the Occident, and is much more generally practised at the present time in India, China and Japan than in the West. A special profession has grown up, with a technique all its own, empirical in origin but very thorough and very effective. More specially in Japan, but in a lesser degree in all the Far East, this technique is imparted by the apprentice system in a more or less well-defined guild ; and in Japan this guild of masseurs has consisted largely of the blind. Their skill in the manipulation of muscles and joints is very great, and their services are (and have been) in almost universal demand. The guild of masseurs includes men and women who make their rounds either early in the morning or late in the evening, their presence being heralded by blowing on a small whistle. Both this guild and a guild of fortune-tellers and musicians are very ancient, dating back to about 850 A.D.' His views hold with the past conditions more than with the present, and though he suggested the field of massage more emphatically, we have had a similar situation with music. And, moreover, as we could not bring mere empirical arts into progressive harmony with present conditions, the blind have elaborated some sciences for massage, acupuncture and music. So now, to acquire a good knowledge of the sciences and arts of massage, acupuncture and music, pupils spend at least from four to seven years at the schools for the blind. And it is also imperative for each such pupil to have received—prior to, and at the same time with, his course of massage, acupuncture or music—a good general education as his background. As before stated, massage, acupuncture and music are the most important vocations of the blind, though they no longer monopolise them. We at present cannot find out any other better ones for them, and the best experts and the greatest people we found in the fields of these subjects have been the blind who have been studying these subjects hardest and most systematically. Therefore, we put massage, acupuncture and music in the courses of study as vocational subjects together with literary subjects at the schools for the blind."

A BLIND IRISH PIPER

THE death of John Reilly, the blind piper of Dunmore, removes probably the last of the old type of Irish piper.

Born at Corabany, County Roscommon, ninety years ago, he became blind at the age of seventeen, and for seven years took lessons on the pipe from his employer, who taught him a tune " for every day in the year." He later toured the country, and, in 1864, married and settled in Dunmore. For years there was not a dance or marriage feast within thirty miles to which he was not invited.

AMERICAN BLIND CONVENTION



THE Twelfth Biennial Convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind was held at the Hotel Morton, Atlantic City, New Jersey, June 20th to 24th, 1927. A well-considered, constructive programme presented the social adjustment of the blind, new industries for the blind, pensions, work with the blind in England, work with the blind in Canada, the need of better organisation among the libraries for the blind, the experimental work of the American Foundation for the Blind, public health aspects of preventing blindness and other subjects for consideration.

In his opening address Mr. Robert B. Irwin, the able and popular President of the Association, emphasised the fact that since the war no organised effort had been made to keep the American workers for the blind informed of the progress of work similar to theirs being conducted in Europe. He stated that, as many requests had been received from abroad for an international conference, he had appointed a committee to consider these proposals. Mr. Irwin, Director of the Bureau of Research of the American Foundation for the Blind, as Chairman of a committee appointed to study the matter of developing interpointed Braille in the United States, had spent several months abroad investigating the question of two-side print. Professor Edward Johnstone, of the State Home for the Feeble-Minded at Vineland, New Jersey, welcomed the convention to the State.

The social adjustment of the blind was the theme of the first session. The subject was admirably handled by a group of blind speakers among whom were Miss Anne Connolly, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; Miss Bertha Hanford, State Agency for the Blind, Duluth, Minnesota; Harold Deming, State School for the Blind, Vancouver, Washington; George Meyer, Department for the Blind, Public Schools, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Murray B. Allan, Commission for the Adult Blind, Salt Lake City, Utah. Not only in this first morning's programme but throughout the entire convention this leadership of the blind in the many subjects presented by the speakers was made clear. It seemed the dominant note of the conference. Captain E. A. Baker, Secretary of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, gave a comprehensive and delightful account of the work for the blind in Canada. Captain Baker was the first blinded Canadian officer to be returned from the front. Mr. L. W. Rodenberg, an authority on embossed music scores, read a paper on the future of music for the blind in this country. He advocated the policy of one large centre for the circulation of music in the United States, and announced that the New York Public Library, New York City, had undertaken this national service. H. Randolph Latimer, the well-known Secretary of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, brought the attention of the convention to the work of service clubs, a source of helpfulness which until recently has remained undeveloped. Calvin Glover, of the Cincinnati Association for the Adult Blind, told of his experience in the housing of blind men.

Wednesday evening was the gala occasion of the week. That evening was set aside as an appropriate time in which to honour Walter G. Holmes who for twenty years had served the blind with unfaltering devotion as Editor of the Matilda Ziegler Magazine. It was a surprise party for Mr. Holmes, a secret well kept for months by thousands of his blind friends throughout the country and by the three hundred and more who were at Atlantic City. In an auditorium packed to the walls and overflowing to the sidewalk, Helen Keller, an international figure in this work, presented to him on behalf of the readers of the Ziegler a handsome watch and a leather folio containing excerpts from many of the delightful and appreciative letters sent to him on this occasion. Miss Keller spoke in a happy vein, and her address was a glowing and charming tribute to Mr. Holmes.

The sessions were remarkably well attended throughout. Cool ocean breezes, an excellent hotel management, and an enthusiastic song leader, Curtis Williams, Musical Director, Public Recreation Commission, Cincinnati, Ohio (ex-service man), aided in the making of this highly successful conference. The President, the Secretary and the Executive Council may well be proud, for it will linger long in the memory of all who attended it as a red-letter convention.

LUCILLE G. GOLDTHWAITE.

OBITUARY

Mr. HENRY MARTYN TAYLOR, J.P., M.A., F.R.S., F.R.A.S., F.C.T.B.

IT is with profound regret that we have to record the death of Mr. H. M. Taylor, Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, at the age of eighty-five.

The second son of the Rev. James Taylor, D.D., he was educated at Wakefield Grammar School, elected a Scholar of Trinity, and graduated as third Wrangler and second Smith's Prizeman in 1865. Elected to a Fellowship in 1866, Mr. Taylor was at his death by five years the Senior Fellow. He was appointed Vice-Principal of the Royal School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, since transferred to the Royal Naval College at Greenwich. In 1869 he was called to the Bar, but never practised; was recalled to the College to be a lecturer in mathematics, and served the College in this office for twenty-five years, during ten of which he was also tutor. He served on many university syndicates, and held the office of Proctor.

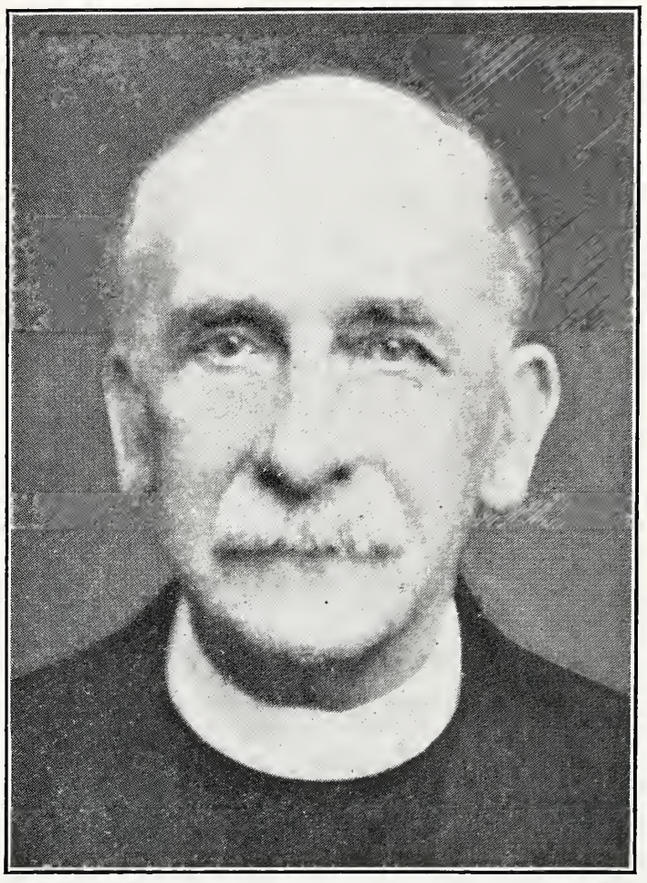
In May, 1894, his sight began to fail rapidly, and subsequently he became totally blind. It was in the service of the blind that some of his most remarkable and characteristic work was accomplished. Realising the dearth of embossed scientific books, he raised a fund, the Embossed Scientific Book Fund, with a view to the publication in Braille of scientific books at reasonable prices. This fund was later established on a permanent basis. As a member of the British Braille Committee from 1900 to 1905, he rendered important service in the revision of Braille, and in securing the adoption of Grades I and II by the English-speaking blind throughout the Empire. In 1903, he joined the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind (then the British and Foreign Blind Association); for some years he was Chairman of the Institute's Book Committee. At the first examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind in 1908, he was an examiner, and three years later he was elected a Fellow of the College. He contributed valuable papers and geometrical figures to the columns of "Progress," and his efforts to supply the blind with embossed maps have been completely successful.

He became a member of the Cambridge Town Council, was Mayor in 1900–1, and for some years was the Chairman of the Finance Committee. He was made a borough magistrate.

Thus passes a well-known figure in the world of the blind, and his name will be remembered for his untiring efforts on behalf of the sightless.

THE REV. HUGH SHEARER

WITH deep regret we record the death of the Rev. Hugh Shearer, minister of the Queen's Road Presbyterian Church, Brighton, who was well known for his work on behalf of the blind.



Mr. Shearer was from the Free Church of Scotland, and trained in the Glasgow University and College.

During his forty years in Brighton he took the greatest interest in educational matters, and was connected with the old School Board and afterwards the Education Committee. He was chairman of the After-Care Committee dealing with a group of schools for fourteen years, became a member of the Managers' Committee of the Brighton Savings Bank, and up to the time of his death had been their chairman for twelve years. Much of his

time was devoted to the welfare of the blind; he was a trustee of the Moon Society, a member of the Executive Committee of the Brighton Society for the Welfare of the Blind, and a great friend of both Dr. and Miss Moon.

Besides these activities, he was a Vice-President and one of the chaplains of the Throat and Ear Hospital, Acting-Chaplain to the Presbyterian soldiers at the barracks, President of the Brighton and Hove Free Church Council, and President of the Brighton Central and West Sussex Sunday School Union. He was also the senior member of the Brighton and Hove Town Mission, his connection with which had lasted some thirty years.

He was accorded a military funeral, and a striking tribute was paid to his life by the Rev. J. Stephens-Roose, who, in the course of his address, said: "Nearest his heart, perhaps, was his work for the alleviation of suffering and help for those in danger of blindness."

CAPT. PEIRSON-WEBBER

WE regret to announce the death of Capt. Francis Peirson-Webber at Ettington Manor, Stratford-on-Avon, on October 7th.

Having lost his sight over twenty-five years ago, as a result of service in India, Capt. Peirson-Webber sought occupation in the breeding and rearing of poultry. He was successful on his own farm, and proceeded to instruct others in that career. At one time he was instructor in poultry-keeping to the Warwick and Northampton County Councils, and lectured throughout the midlands. In 1906 he founded the National Service Poultry Club, which he directed most efficiently. He was an active member of the National Poultry Council, and was also instrumental in helping to provide wireless sets to blind people in the Warwickshire area.

THE REV. G. A. K. SIMPSON

THE death has taken place, after a brief illness, of the Rev. G. A. K. Simpson, chaplain of the Royal School for the Blind, Bristol, and a well-known figure in the Henleaze district.

He was one of the first members of the committee which, some two years ago, took in hand the question of erecting a new church in the rapidly-growing district of Henleaze, and it is a pathetic incident that he has passed away within a month of the date fixed for the consecration of the church to provide which he laboured so earnestly.

As chaplain of the Royal School for the Blind, Mr. Simpson was very much beloved both by the pupils and the staff.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

THE list of successful candidates at the July examinations of the Royal College of Organists includes the following:—

Fellowship.—Mr. H. J. Pyne, pupil of Mr. T. G. Osborne, at the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind, and now Assistant Music-Master at that Institution.

Associateship.—Mr. W. A. Black, Royal School for the Blind, Craigmillar Park, and Mr. W. E. Floyd, West of England Institution for the Blind, Exeter.

We heartily congratulate these gentlemen on their achievement. It is interesting to note that they represent three different institutions for the blind.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
	BIOGRAPHY.	
F. Marzials.	Gambetta	3
	ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE.	
Price, L. L.	Political Economy in England	3
	HISTORY.	
Harrison, W.	Elizabethan England	5
	ENGLISH LITERATURE.	
Ker, W. P.	English Literature (Medieval)	2
Moncrieff, E. Hope.	Romance and Legend of Chivalry	5
	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Graham, Stephen.	A Tramp's Sketches	3
Johnston, L. E.	China and her Peoples	2
	MODERN LANGUAGES.	
La Bruyère.	Les Caractères	7
De Musset.	Le Merle Blanc (Ed. by C. Delhave)	2
	PHILOSOPHY.	
Blackie, J. Stuart.	Self Culture	1
	POLITICAL SCIENCE.	
Burke, Edmund.	Speeches and Writings (Ed. by Hannaford Bennett)	2
	SCIENCE.	
Maunder, E. W.	Sir W. Huggins and Spectroscopic Astronomy	1
McKenna, R. W.	The Adventure of Life	3
	THEOLOGY AND RELIGION.	
Chambers, A.	Man and the Spiritual World	3
Inge, W. R.	Personal Religion	1
Whitehead, A. N.	Religion in the Making	1

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)



IF the State should ever seek to standardise the income of non-seeing industrial workers, those responsible for the administration would not be likely to be so foolish as to confuse the issue by designating a glorified form of relief as in any degree comparable to the minimum wage of either the Civil Service officer or a Corporation employee.

The term "minimum wage," then, as applied in this connection is just as misleading and quite as inaccurate as another equally foolish expression—I refer to the term " a compensation for blindness grant." Such irrelevant and meaningless phrases ought to be avoided. You cannot by the provision of mere cash payments equalise conditions that are absolutely dissimilar. It may seem somewhat hackneyed to suggest, but it is none the less true now as in our schoolboy days to say " things that are similar are equal to each other," and *per contra* by inverting the same proposition it is not less true to affirm that " things wholly dissimilar are not comparable to each other."

It is quite conceivable that a system could be provided under which wages and grants-in-aid thereof could be so far fixed under competent and careful management as to provide for a reasonable standard of output and efficiency, and in that event my submission is that where such conditions are maintained most of the fundamental objections now preferred against such fixation would disappear.

Examples working contrariwise are so numerous, however, that unfortunately the strongest reproach that can with truth be levelled against the present agencies is provided by those very people who are working the system, and by the adoption of their present attitude they are effectively ministering to their own defeat.

I am sorry that it should have been necessary to so far digress from the main lines of my thesis, but had I not done so, it would have been impossible to give an answer to those who have been good enough to examine in detail the conclusions and opinions to which I stand committed.

It has been previously stated that many methods of remunerating the services of non-seeing workers at present obtain in England and Wales. On examination it is revealed that while there are some elements in the varying systems which appear to suggest that a common agreement might be possible, yet there are many prevailing conditions which are so peculiarly local that they are not always easy of adjustment, or immediately capable of being eliminated, be they ever so undesirable.

It has also been previously noted that taking twenty-five workshops as providing a reasonable number from which to draw evidence, at least twelve variants exist under which wage payments and grants-in-aid of wages obtain. To take a few typical examples will be the better mode of approach to these complicated conditions, for we will then be able to appreciate the fact that widely divergent systems of remuneration inevitably lead to widespread discontent, and the fostering of an attitude that is not merely destructive of all good understandings, but (what is not less important) these variations totally disregard any approach to a standard of productivity and efficiency.

As I see it, in the future we shall have to depend upon arrangements which will have for their object the assessment of disability; and after a long experience and much research I am firmly convinced that the basis of calculation must necessarily be economic earnings, plus a disability allowance. Such a method provides the only sure foundation of accurate classification, so that all assistance given beyond economic earnings should be provided in the form of a disability grant made variable within certain percentage limits, expanding or contracting in proportion to increased or decreased earning power. Nothing quite like this method has so far been adopted, though there are some evidences of a feeble imitation.

Recently I visited an institution where the piece-work rate of wages is being paid; in addition a bonus of 25 per cent. is given on economic earnings, and, at the same establishment single men enjoy a subsidy of 13/- per week, whilst married men are granted an allowance of 22/6 per week. Women workers are provided with a set wage of 28/- weekly.

Small allowances are also available for married men with children.

The following examples briefly illustrate this system in practice :—

	Single Men	Married Men
Economic earnings ...	... £1 0 0	£1 0 0
Percentage subsidy ...	... 5 0	5 0
Augmentation of wages grant	13 0	1 2 6
Special grant for two children	—	4 0
	£1 18 0	£2 11 6

In other words, taking total receipts as given above, single men, economic earnings 55 per cent., grants 45 per cent. ; married men, earnings 37 per cent., grants 63 per cent.

At four other workshops set scales of remuneration are provided ranging from 35/- per week to approximately 55/-, but with one notable exception the trade earnings are in the following proportion : economic wages $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent ; relief $66\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.—revealing a disparity for which it is impossible to find justification.

COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND, NORWOOD

RECENT successes of pupils at the Royal College for the Blind, Norwood, are as follows :—

Oxford Junior Local—

Margaret Brand, Joan Hewlett, Lilian Smith and Edwin Gates, aged thirteen and fourteen.

Certificate Examination of the Board of Education for Students in Training Colleges—

All the students entered were successful in passing, Reginald Allibone with credit in geography, history and music ; Frank Bates with credit in music ; Kathleen Fleet with credit in music.

Royal School of Arts, Shorthand Intermediate Examination, Stage 2, 100 words per minute—

Winifred Garland, Lucie Martin, Vera Smith, Pattie Whittle.

Associated Board. School Examinations Piano—*Lower Division*—Mary Bonham, Nancy Catlin. *Higher Division*—Ethel Cordock, Mildred Fry, Vera Hansley, George Palmer.

London College of Music—

Associate—William Bundy.

THE FIRST EDITOR OF "PROGRESS"

A SHORT time ago, the question arose as to who was the first editor of the monthly Braille magazine, " Progress."

Miss Alice S. Armitage has now sent us a very interesting little booklet, containing a sketch of the life of her father, Dr. T. R. Armitage, who served the blind so devotedly. So interesting is the information given that we hope to reproduce it in a future number of *The Beacon*. At present, we shall content ourselves with quoting from the passages dealing with the foundation of Gardner's Trust and our Braille magazine, as follows :—

> " An important bequest of £300,000 was left to the blind of England and Wales in 1879 by the late Mr. Henry Gardner. . . . The trustees were not agreed as to the disposal of the bequest, one wishing to let the whole go to the foundation of a new institution at Windsor, the others thinking it best to spend nothing in new buildings, but to use the income in assisting those institutions for the blind which were already doing their work well. This latter opinion was shared by the judge who had to decide the case, and judgment was given accordingly in March, 1881. This decision, so important to the blind, was very imperfectly reported by the Press, which circumstances led Dr. Armitage to publish a report in Braille type, which formed the first number of a magazine for the blind entitled ' Progress.' The object of this magazine is to give, in a condensed form, any information likely to be specially interesting to the blind, as well as short articles of general interest. It seems to supply a want felt by the blind. . ."

A RESOLUTION adopted by the Southport Tramways Committee is to the effect that blind and maimed residents of Southport be allowed to travel free on Corporation buses at the discretion of the tramways manager.

Out of due honest purpose earnestly pursued, a man must emerge but stronger and better for his effort, even though the result falls far short of the accomplishment of his undertaking.

NEWS ITEMS

Capt. Gerald Lowry, one of the first officers to be blinded in the war, has been admitted to the Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers.

Joyce Middleton, a blind pupil of the East London Home and School for Blind Children, Clapton, read from Braille an address of welcome at the opening of a new wing at the school last month. Lady Amherst opened the extension, and the Bishop of Stepney dedicated the wing.

The extension to the municipal workshops for the blind at Glasgow was opened on October 18th by Sir John Gilmour, Secretary for Scotland.

It is stated that the addition to the buildings has cost more than £20,000, and will employ over 200 extra blind men and women.

Northamptonshire has lost a remarkable personality by the death of Miss Mary Ann Leigh, who died at Thurning at the age of 81.

Miss Leigh, who has been blind since she was a year old, was taught the organ by a vicar's wife, and was the organist at the village church for 40 years.

She rang the Angelus daily and conducted visitors over the church, pointing out its beauties with unerring accuracy.

In their eighth annual report the trustees of the Edward George Bates Pension Fund for the Blind refer with deep regret to the death of the founder of the fund on May 27th.

In reporting the gift of a further sum of £1,000 free of duty which Mr. Bates left to the fund under his will—making his total benefaction up to £9,500—the trustees "desire again to place on record their appreciation of the great generosity and public spirit shown by the late Mr. Bates in promoting the welfare of blind persons residing in the borough."

As in previous years, the trustees decided that pensions should only be granted for one year, and then be subject to revision. Pensions were allotted to twenty-seven persons during the period ending on September 30th next, representing a rate of £383 10s. yearly.

When Flight-Lieutenant Webster, winner of the Schneider Cup, returned to his native town of Walsall last month, a blind girl presented him with a woollen cardigan, on behalf of her sightless fellow-workers.

The members of the American Legion, who sailed for America on the 11th October, were received by the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on the previous day. Amongst the legionaries was Lieut. Frank Schoble, of Philadelphia, who was blinded in the war.

The proposed extensions at "Beechholme." Beverley Road, Hull, the headquarters of the Hull and E.R. Institution for the Blind, in respect of which application is to be made to the Ministry of Health for a loan, are meant to provide accommodation for the training of pupils.

According to the report of the London Central Spectacles Committee, 23,593 pairs of spectacles were obtained by parents of London elementary school children last year. In consequence of medical inspection at schools the provision of spectacles has grown rapidly. Nineteen districts are now self-supporting, and in four only—Stepney, Poplar, Finsbury and Paddington—is financial aid required from the committee.

The organisers of the Mission to the Outdoor Blind for Glasgow and the West of Scotland have prepared an ambitious programme of social work for the coming winter. The Mission has on its roll almost 2,900 blind persons. An extensive series of meetings have been planned for the winter months, and social clubs have been organised in the Southern, Central and Western districts of Glasgow, and in Dumfries, Kilmarnock, Ayr, Paisley, Greenock, Motherwell and Coatbridge.

Mr. William N. Ness, the superintendent of the Mission, appeals to soloists and instrumentalists to arrange amongst their musical friends an evening's programme. The Mission's office is at 201 Buchanan Street, Glasgow.

The Bury Society for the Blind are making a special appeal to the public of the town to consider the claims of the local trained sightless workers when having rush and cane-bottomed chairs re-seated. Arrangements will be made to collect and return chairs requiring repairs. Orders and enquiries should be made to Mr. J. Hodgson (hon. secretary), Education Offices, Bury; or to Mr. W. Wilkinson (Home Visitor), 44 Nuttall Street, Bury.

At a meeting of the members of the Liverpool Branch of the National Union of Textile Workers, Mr. Ben Turner said that there was a great desire to overcome, if possible, the effects of blindness of a temporary character among operatives of the trade, and of gastric effects due to chemical fumes.

He said that they had been in communication with the Home Office, and had received intimation that the medical department of that Ministry was inquiring into the possibility of remedying the trouble.

In regard to the transfer of services from the Royal Sheffield Institution for the Blind to the Corporation, the special sub-committee which has been dealing with the matter reports that arrangements have been made for the transferred services to be carried on for the present under the supervision of the Town Clerk as " The Welfare of the Blind Department," and for the City Treasurer to be responsible for the accounts and book-keeping. Arrangements have also been made for the retail shops at 140-144 West Street to be carried on temporarily except as regards the sale of " factored goods," but the shop at No. 57 will be used as an office.

The children from the L.C.C. Schools for the Blind, now being taken in parties through the Natural History Museum in South Kensington, listen to the official lecturer with extraordinary interest. The questions they ask show how much they are impressed by the accounts of animals and fishes of which they may hear but can never see. Naturally, they are most anxious to carry away direct impressions of the extension and shape of the numerous objects of which they are told, and the authorities arrange that so far as possible they shall pass their hands over duplicate specimens.

A very interesting little event took place at the Cardiff Institute for the Blind in September, when Mr. Fred Keenor and Mr. Len Davies took to the Institute the Cup which they won at Wembley.

It was the desire of the blind persons to be allowed to " see "—that is, handle—the cup, and the Cardiff City directors kindly accorded the privilege.

The blind people feel that they were in no small measure responsible for the winning of the cup, inasmuch as the stockings which the team wore at Wembley were all made by blind girls!

The well-known blind Hull musician, Mr. John R. Lawson, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., has been appointed as organist and choirmaster of the Newland Congregational Church, Beverley Road, and commenced his duties there on the third Sunday in October. For the past sixteen years Mr. Lawson has held a similar position at the Portobello Primitive Methodist Church, Holderness Road.

The Stoke-on-Trent Education Committee have decided to pay a fee of £35 per annum for the current financial year in respect of approved pupils at the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind. In addition, the committee agreed that the following maintenance allowances be paid to blind adolescents residing at home, subject to modifications of the amounts according to the financial circumstances of each trainee's family: Age 16 to 17, 10/- per week; 17 to 18, 11/-; 18 to 19, 12/-; 19 to 20, 13/-; 20 to 21, 15/-. The maintenance grant to persons over 21 to be £1 per week so long as the persons concerned are approved for training by the Board of Education and the Education Committee. The fees and grants are to be paid " as from the date of recognition of the institution by the Board of Education as a training centre, or from such earlier date from which the Board are prepared to approve such expenditure as recognisable for grant."

RECITALS BY THE BLIND

THE National Institute is arranging the following recitals at St. John's Church, Waterloo Road, on Wednesdays at 1 o'clock:—

November 9th.—Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus.B. F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M. Vocalist—Miss Isabel Vass, L.R.A.M.

November 16th.—Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., Organist and Director of Music, National Institute for the Blind. Vocalist—Mr. Thomas Watson.

November 23rd.—Mr. William Wolstenholme, Mus.B. (Oxon.) Vocalist—Mr. Sinclair Logan, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

November 30th.—Mr. Sinclair Logan. Vocalist—Mr. W. E. Turner.

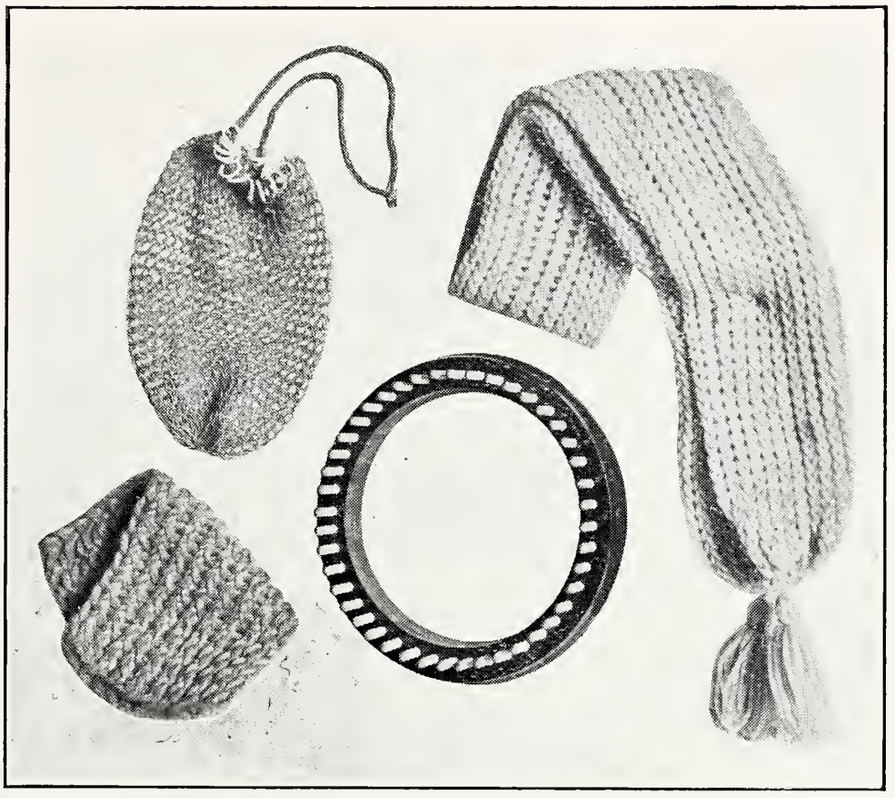
In addition to the above, Mr. H. W. Greenhill, F.R.C.O., is giving a recital at St. Mary-le-Bow on Wednesday, November 9th. at 1 o'clock, assisted by Mr. Thomas Watson. Mr. Warrilow will give a recital to open the re-constructed organ at St. Peter's, Bushey Heath, on Sunday evening, November 20th.

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

WORK ON THE STRING BAG FRAME



STRING BAG making is one of the simplest of home occupations, but unfortunately the bags themselves are now out of fashion and, generally speaking, the public will not have the mat at any price. It is, therefore, advisable for the worker who wishes to sell his wares to turn his attention to other articles which can be made by the same method for which there is a greater demand; and even if the work is taken up mainly as a hobby there is far more satisfaction in producing something which will be appreciated and used by one's fellows than something which they do not particularly want even as a gift. Occasionally one may receive a request for a string bag for shopping or for some other purpose, but the greatest demand will probably be for scarves, especially at this season of the year, and these are just as easy to make as string bags. Other articles which can be made on the string bag frame are children's caps, bonnets, and gaiters, shawls, tea-cosies, cords for various purposes, dusters, dish and floor cloths, and even children's jerseys; and on the larger frames rugs, coverlets, jerseys, and a number of other articles of wearing apparel.



CIRCULAR FRAME WITH SPECIMENS OF KNITTING

The work consists of knitting, this being done not with needles but on pegs fixed at regular intervals in a straight, oval, or circular frame. These frames are sold by Messrs. Cox & Co., New Oxford Street, London, W., at prices ranging from 1/- for an oval frame with 16 pegs to 10/6 for a 100 peg straight frame. The work is done with the fingers, so that nothing else in the way of special equipment is required. Messrs. Cox also supply an excellent textbook at 9d. to which the present writer is indebted for some useful information. Perhaps the most useful frame is the 44 peg circular at 4/9; this was used for making the examples about to be described.

CHILD'S WOOLLEN SCARF.—3 ozs. of "double Berlin" wool of suitable colour, say pink or light blue, will be required for this, and it is a good plan to make the tassels for the ends first so that the whole of the remaining wool may be worked up in the scarf. To make the tassels, wind some wool evenly round a book or card and then cut along one edge in the same way that wool is cut for rug making on the wooden gauge. Now wind a piece of wool firmly round the centre of the bunch, knot it tightly, and knot the two ends loosely together two or three times to form a stem for attaching the tassel to the end of the scarf. The tassel is completed by tying the whole bunch together about half an inch from the top. For the knitting, the frame is held on the lap with pegs facing away and the wool is tied to one of the pegs, leaving an end to be used later for drawing together the end of scarf. In this scarf the knitting is done on alternate pegs, a peg being missed between every two stitches, but the directions for making the stitch—called the "raised"—apply equally to work in which every peg is used. With the left hand pass the

wool underneath and up on the left of the next peg but one, take it loosely round this peg, along underneath, up on the left of the next but one peg, and so on right round the frame. When the peg round which the wool was first passed has been gone round again, making two loops, pick up the bottom one with the fore-finger and thumb of the right hand, lift it over the other loop and top of peg, and let it drop on the inside, and continue this on each alternate peg round and round till all the wool has been used up except for a piece long enough to be threaded through the stitches which are taken off the pegs for this purpose. The work is then drawn up close and the end of the wool secured and cut off. The other end of the scarf is treated in like manner and the work completed by sewing on the tassels.

A String Bag.—Stout macramé twine is used for this and in the knitting all the pegs are used, otherwise the work is begun and continued for about twenty-four rows in the same way as for the scarf. Instead of threading the end of twine through the stitches, a cord made in the following way is used: Double a length of twine and place the loop thus formed over one of the pegs (the cord is, of course, made before the bag is begun), take the doubled twine under the next peg to the left, up and round it, and then down and round No. 1 peg. Now form a stitch by taking the beginning loop over the top of peg, pass the twine round No. 2 peg, make a stitch there, then go back to No. 1 again, and so on backwards and forwards on the two pegs till the required length has been made. After the cord has been threaded through stitches at top of bag the two ends are knotted together to form a long handle for carrying. Rings are often attached to top of bag for the cord to pass through. The bottom of bag is drawn together in the same way as end of scarf, and a tassel may be added if desired.

"Casting Off."—This is necessary to finish off a piece of work such as a duster or dish cloth and is done in the following manner: (1) Knit a stitch in the ordinary way; (2) Take this stitch off its peg and place it on the next peg to the right; (3) Make a stitch by taking the bottom loop on this peg over the other loop; (4) Take the stitch off this peg and place it on the next peg to the left. Continue these movements till the last stitch is reached, thread the wool or twine through this and tie securely.

Floor Cloths.—Oddments of wool of any colour or thickness can be used up for these, thin wool being used double. Straight articles are made by turning back when the last peg is reached and working backwards and forwards instead of round and round.

Dish Cloths and Dusters.—Oddments of cotton can be utilised for making these, or stout unbleached cotton suitable for the purpose can be bought. The "close" stitch is more suitable for dusters than the "raised," and is formed by letting the cotton rest on the peg instead of being taken round it, the bottom loop being taken over the top of peg in the same manner as for the "raised" stitch.

A. G. K.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND DECEMBER, 1927

THE next examination for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40 tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.19, will be held on Saturday, the 3rd and Monday, the 5th of December. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the date of the examination, must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years and be intending to remain so resident. Application should be made to the Principal on or before Saturday, the 12th of November, and the forms, properly filled in and completed, returned to the College on or before Saturday, the 19th of November, or the candidate's name will not be placed on the list.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to the 11th October, 956 wireless sets and 1,223 pairs of headphones have been distributed among the blind, the local associations acting as distributing centres.

As a result of the appeal, 378 wireless sets and 192 pairs of headphones have been received.

Donations from private sources and grants from the National Institute for the Blind have enabled the fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and the number distributed. Readers should note that in future all wireless sets sent out by the National Institute for the Blind will remain the property of the Institute. When sets are no longer required by their users they should be returned to the Institute.

JUVENILE—
7454 My Days with the Fairies, by Mrs. Rodolph Stawell 6 6

CLASSICS—
7633 The Prometheus Bound of Aeschylus. Translated into English Verse by Lewis Campbell, M.A., Hon. LL.D., Hon. D.Litt. 3 3

DRAMA—
7422 Juno and the Paycock, from "Two Plays," by Sean O'Casey 6 0

POETRY—
7699 The Rubaiyat of a Scotch Terrier, by Sewell Collins 0 6

POLITICAL—
7452-7453 On England, and other Addresses, by the Right Honourable Stanley Baldwin, M.P., 2 vols. per vol. 9 0

RELIGIOUS—
5686-5688 The First Book of Moses called Genesis (Authorised Version), 3 vols. .. .. .. per vol. 4 1

MAPS—
745 Maps of the London Underground Railways 2 3

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

2596-2598 The World Beautiful, by Lilian Whiting, 3 vols. (Limited edition), 3 vols. .. .. .. per vol. 12 0
2371 St. John, Chapter 8 (Giant Type) 4 0

BOOK REVIEWS

THROUGH BLIND EYES* *by Maurice de la Sizeranne.* The American Foundation for the Blind has issued a reprint of Dr. F. Park Lewis's English translation of Maurice de la Sizeranne's well-known book on the blind. Much of the matter contained in this book is now common knowledge, but when it was first published it must have greatly impressed its readers, many of whom were doubtless unaware of the capabilities of blind people when properly educated and trained in various avocations.

M. de la Sizeranne, who was educated at the National Institution for Young Blind People in Paris, devoted his entire life to improving the condition of the sightless. Amongst his activities on their behalf may be mentioned an abbreviated system of orthography and the publication of numerous books and pamphlets, including the "Valentin Haüy"—a journal devoted to the interests of the blind. It is as the founder of the Valentin Haüy Institution that he is best known to the blind world.

In his book he discusses the blind from various standpoints—their physical, their intellectual and their moral qualities, concerning which much valuable information is gleaned. The second part is devoted to Valentin Haüy, the well-known pioneer and philanthropist, who has given his name to the Institution in Paris; the fourth part deals with the past, the present and the future of the Blind.

*Obtainable from the American Foundation for the Blind price 1.35 dollars.

"TARRY, KNIGHT!"* *By C. R. Allen (Author of "The Ship Beautiful," "Brown Smock," etc.).*—The knight tarried. It was a child who summoned him from the legendary past, in which he had done brave deeds and exercised a goodly influence on all who came his way. The knight's memory was perpetuated in a stained-glass window; and so dearly had he loved the old cathedral town that he was allowed to ride through it at will, staying only long enough to visit the cathedral for prayer.

One night Robin, the Dean's little son, heard the horse's hoofs and the sound of singing. The next day the knight came among them, known only by a sympathetic few.

In telling of his sojourn in the beloved city, and of the reaction of its various inhabitants to the purity of his influence, Mr. Allen displays all his well-known skill in telling an allegorical tale.

THE older I grow . . . the clearer I see, that romance is not confined to any particular profession or trade; and that there may be noble characters engaged in weeding turnips as well as in rescuing beauteous maidens from burning houses on the screen.—*J. J. Bell.*

* "Tarry, Knight!" by C. R. Allen (published by John Hamilton, Ltd., price 7/6 net).

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the October Numbers)

Progress.—Underground Wonders—The Isle of Refreshment—A Sonnet—The Esperanto Congress at Danzig—Obituary: Sir Robert Ellis Cunliffe, M.A.—An English Court through Eastern Eyes—Our Prize Competitions—Cross-word Puzzle—Matters of the Moment: The Jubilee of Harald Thilander—Wireless for the Blind; Dramatic Readings at the National Institute—Advertisements—Correspondence—Contents of the Coal Scuttle—Where Curfew Still Rings—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page: Deux Ennemis—Fiction: Bibliophiles—Arthur Roberts tells some Stories. Supplements: "Progress Chess; Home Occupations for the Blind: Lady's Sleeveless Coat; Infant's Knitted Bonnet; Scarf in Double Knitting. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—Dr. Johnson and Anatole France—Sinbad the Sailor: 5,000 years ago—An English Lady: A Little Portrait—A Woman in Bagdad—A Pedlar Remembers—Two Outstanding Novels: Reviews—The Newdigate Prize Poem—Some Jersey Churches—Settled with Thanks—Boswell's "Ebony Cabinet." Supplement: Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—The Motor Car and its Story: No. 4: Some Thrilling Rides by Car—The Captive of Mid-Ocean—The Elephant, the Horse, and the Zebra—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competition—Conquering the Atlantic—A Country without a Railway—The False Chord—The First Thermometer. Supplements: "Comrades"; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—"Shark" Publishers and their Victims—New Students' Hand-Book on Instrumentation—Teaching Pieces for first-year pupils—Correspondence—The Bar—Tune used at the Last Supper—The "Little Organ Book of Bach." Supplements: Braille Music Reviews. Announcements. Inset: Piano: "Kopak," Arnold Bax. (Subscription: Inland and abroad: 8s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—The Medical Aspect of some Chronic Rheumatic Diseases—The Present Treatment of Infantile Paralysis—Notice. Supplements: Massage Journal Inset: Ultra-Violet Rays. Official Notices. Disabilities of the Sacro-Iliac Joint. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Resumé of Programmes Broadcast from Stations (England and Wales) of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Channels of Blessing.—Eternal Life—Virtue—Notes on Hebrews—Through the Valley—Our Letter from India—The Romance of a Brazilian Church—If He should come to-morrow—A Letter from Syria—"Hold Thou my Hand"—The Preacher and his Book—Explanation of Texts—Prayer Union—Gleanings—Inset: "Channels of Blessing." Supplement: The Beginning of Foreign Missions. (6½d. per copy, post free, inland and abroad).

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—The Value of Horse-power—Progress of Bills before Parliament—News Items—The Poet's Corner—Legal Notes—Favourite Quotations—The Year 1920, and After—Correspondence—Stage Stories—Advertisements and General Notices—A Tent Holiday. Supplements: Literary: Edward Gibbons; Famous Last Words; Fame and Snubs. Music: Tchaikowsky: "The Despairing Musician," by L. D. S. McMillan. Piano: "Moto Perpetuo," by Swinstead. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—Review of a New Book—Our New National Anthem—Jerusalem (Poem)—A Good Man Passing into History—Turning Sharks into Leather—Raven Exacts a Man's Life—Gabriel Samara, Book II (Chapters 4-6), E. Phillips Oppenheim—Thought for the Month—Great Pianist's Triumph. (1s 8d. per month, post free.)

The Seeker.—Editorial—Catholicism and Humanity, by the Rev. W. G. Peck—The Mystery-teaching of the Bible: X, The Calling of the Twelve, by W. E. Grove—The Dramatic History of the Christian Faith: VII. Origin, the Initiate in the Mysteries of Jesus—Christian Mystics: William Blake, by W. P. Swainson—Law and Prayer, by Dr. Annie Besant—Fragments, by Cave.

Moon Magazine.—Other People's Homes, by May Marshall—Uncle Sambuq's Fortune, by Paul Arène—The Seigneur of Sark—The Story of Stilton—Ships and Strange Crews—Elephants as Firemen—.(Subscription: Inland and abroad: 9s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

ADVERTISEMENTS.

LEEDS EDUCATION AUTHORITY.
TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

Required, for January next, **Female Instructor in Knitting.** The person appointed will come under either the Teachers' or the Local Government Officers' Superannuation Scheme. Preference will be given to those with experience of training the Blind. Applications stating age, qualifications, experience and salary, together with copies of three recent testimonials, to be submitted to the undersigned on or before the 26th November.

Education Department,
Leeds.

JAMES GRAHAM,
Director of Education.

Female Home Teacher (sighted) **wanted.** Application Form sent on application to THE SECRETARY, Halifax Society for the Blind, Savile Park, Halifax.

Printed by EDSON (Printers) Limited (T.U.), 15a Springdale Road, Stoke Newington, London, N.16, and published by the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Gt. Portland Street, London, W.1

THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1927

DECEMBER

Vol. XI No. 132

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	ORGAN—		
8121	"Marche Triomphale," by W. G. Alcock (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8122	Overture in A minor, by Charlton Palmer (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8123	Largo and Fugue in A minor, by W. Russell (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8124	Rhapsodic Variations (On Two Contrasted Themes), by Herbert Walton (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8125	Gigue in G minor, by Charles Wood (Bar by bar)	2	0
	PIANO—		
8126	2me. Grande Valse de Concert, by Roger Ascham (Bar by bar), pocket size	3	0
8127	French Suite No. 3 in B minor, by Bach (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8128	Sonata No. 12 in A flat, Op. 26, Macpherson's edition, by Bach (Bar by bar)	4	0
8129	Scherzo in E flat minor, Op. 4, by Brahms (Bar by bar), pocket size	3	0
8130	"Queen of the Fairies" (Air de Ballet), by F. G. Byford (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8131	Four Nursery Rhymes ("Boys and Girls come out to play"; "Three Blind Mice"; "Twinkle, twinkle, little star"; "Pop goes the weasel"), by Waddington Cooke (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8132	"In olden France," Suite of Five Pieces, Op. 49, by H. Farjeon (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8133	"Toccata" (Founded on the Northumbrian Pipe-Tune, "Newburn Lads"), by Gustav Holst (Bar by bar, pocket size	2	0
8134	"Caprice Espagnol," Op. 37, by Moszkowski (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8135	Two Old English Dances, by R. J. Wyeth (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO DUETS—		
8136	Old Scottish Melodies (Five Easy Duets), arr. by Ernest Newton (Bar by bar)— Primo parts, pocket size	2	0
8137	Secondo Parts, pocket size	2	0
	DANCE—		
8138	"High up in the Hills," Song Fox-Trot, by M. Abrahams (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8139	Huguette Waltz, from "The Vagabond King," Song-Waltz, by R. Friml (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8140	"Souvenirs," Song Fox-Trot, by Horatio Nicholls (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8141	"Toy-Town Parade, Song Fox-Trot, by Horatio Nicholls (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
8142	"The Oak-Tree Bough," Unison Song, by Bairstow, pocket size	2	0
8143	"Break now, my Heart, and Die," by T. Campion (arr. by Peter Warlock), (C minor: Compass F to A′), pocket size	2	0
8144	"Ye Verdant Hills," Bass air from "Susanna," by Handel (B minor: Compass D to F′)	2	0
8145	"The Radiant Morn" (Sacred with Organ Obligato), by W. G. James (C: Compass B♭ to F′), pocket size	2	0
8146	"Trade Winds," by Frederick Keel (E flat: Compass B♭ to E′), pocket size	2	0
8147	"Arab Love Song," by Quilter (C minor: Compass F to F′), pocket size	2	0
8148	"The Merry Month of May," by Stanford (F: Compass D to F′), pocket size	2	0
8149	"To a Bird at my Window," by G. F. Tomlinson (G: Compass D to A′), pocket size	2	0
8150	"I mun be married a Sunday," by Felix White (B minor: Compass A♭ to E′), pocket size	2	0
8151	"The Cuckoo Madrigal," by Charles Wood (G: Compass B♭ to E′), pocket size	2	0

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

2599-2605	"The Traveller in the Fur Cloak," by Stanley Weyman, 7 vols (limited edition)	per vol. 12	0
2382	"The Lady of the Lift," by E. W. Hornung	5	6
2384	"The Persecution of Bob Pretty," by W. W. Jacobs	5	0
2385	"The Cone," by H. G. Wells	5	6
2386	Daily Text Calendar, 1928	5	0
2387	Daily Motto Calendar, 1928	5	0
2388	Date Pocket Calendar, 1928	0	6
2372	St. John, Chapter 9 (Giant type)	3	0

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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EXTENSION OF THE BARCLAY WORKSHOPS



READERS of *The Beacon*—with all others interested in any kind of philanthropic work—have been unpleasantly accustomed of recent years to hear as a continuous drone in their ears that entirely disagreeable phrase " we shall be forced to cut down existing services, etc., unless . . ." We assume, therefore, that they will be exceptionally pleased to hear of the further extension of an institution for the blind which has steadily progressed for the last 21 years and has rendered most valuable service to blind women.

We have frequently drawn attention to the excellent record of the Barclay Workshops for Blind Women, and only a short time ago we were able to include in *The Beacon* a most interesting account of their establishment and growth by the present Hon. Secretary of the Workshops, Mr. Henry J. Wagg. Mr. Wagg described himself as " just one of a team with Destiny the Captain," and his words, in view of the recent opening of the new extension of the Workshops, must be as clear water in a parched mouth to those who do not believe that Destiny must always be antagonistic to Desire. A famous actress once said that the whole secret of her career was " willing to succeed," in other words, she knew exactly *what* she wanted, and she *wanted* it with sufficient force to get it. In work for the blind, retrograde movements of any kind should be impossibilities if that work is directed by minds and hearts that can never stint intellectual effort nor stem emotional sympathy.

As far as the Barclay Workshops are concerned, those responsible for their direction have evidently possessed that " will to succeed" which is so essential in these rapidly-moving times. They have obviously shut their eyes to " adverse conditions," " economies in effort," and so forth, and as an American might vividly express it, " have gone right out to get on." As our photograph shows, the extension to the premises of the Barclay Workshops in Crawford Street, Baker Street, is an accomplished fact. In the new building, the basement contains a messroom for 50 or 60 people, the ground floor is devoted to offices, the first floor to knitting machines for blind workers, the second and third floors to weaving looms, while the unfurnished top floor—most appropriately nearest the sky—is left for the future extensions which Destiny shaped by Desire must assuredly have in embryo.

The extension was formally opened on the 31st October by Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, President of the Barclay Workshops. The Mayor of Marylebone was present, and speakers included Bishop Russell-Wakefield, Sir Douglas Hogg, K.C., M.P., Mr. Nigel Playfair and Mr. Godfrey Mowatt, J.P., Chairman of the Joint Committee.

In a charming speech Princess Louise declared the extension open, and said that she knew from personal experience over a long number of years of the amount of good done

by the Workshops, and the devotion of those in charge. She paid a special tribute to the unceasing labours of Mrs. Hattersley-Ward, the Superintendent, who has been connected with the Workshops for the past twenty-one years. Mrs. A. West-Russell, Chairman of the Committee, expressed the Committee's sense of gratification at the fact that Her Royal Highness was their President, who had watched over the growth of their enterprise with very deep interest.

Mr. Godfrey Mowatt alluded to the great changes which had been effected among the blind during the last twenty years. The blind, he said, were now marching forward, not only helping themselves, but helping others. In the beginning the Barclay Workshops started with five girls at work in a very small room. The artistic nature of the work produced was apparent to all. The Workshops turned out first-class, fashionable goods at moderate prices, and there was no charity in the work, but a chance to make good.



The New Extension of the Barclay Workshops for the Blind

A tour of the Workshops was made by the visitors, and two of the oldest workers were presented to Princess Louise. At present, 56 girls and women are regularly employed there, and are producing each month over a mile of beautiful materials which are made into table cloths, dresses and curtains for places as far apart as the West End shops and the Fiji Islands. Last year the total sales amounted to nearly £8,000. These Workshops are the only ones in London, or indeed in any country, where hand-loom weaving of this kind, in addition to netting, is carried on on a comparatively large scale.

"Princess Louise," says the *Daily Telegraph*, "watched one very rapid blind weaver, who has been doing the work for twelve years. Although she uses three, four, or more colours in her patterns, she never makes a mistake, using numbers to guide her. In a year she will weave about 1,400 yards of stuff. The blind all love working in colours, with the knowledge that they are making something pretty even though they can never see it."

We know we are but expressing the feelings of every reader of *The Beacon* in wishing the Barclay Workshops the success and further progress which the enterprise of their Committee fully deserves.

The Editor.

The Croydon Town Council has decided to make an annual grant to blind people living in the borough. It will be disbursed by them on the understanding that the recipients do not solicit or receive alms anywhere in the borough.

ESPERANTO AND ITS USES TO THE BLIND

BY W. PERCY MERRICK



ROM twenty-eight countries in all the five continents, between four and five hundred blind Esperantists united in congratulating and in making a presentation to one of their number, Mr. Harald Thilander, of Stocksund, Sweden, on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday, October 25th of this year. This was done out of pure gratitude to the man of all others who by his initiative and devotion has brought Esperanto within their reach, and has shown them many of the ways in which it can be employed to overcome their common disability by disseminating valuable knowledge, a proof that they, at any rate, are convinced of the efficacy of the language.

Deprived of sight and partially of hearing by a terrible illness at the age of six, Mr. Thilander was brought up in a home for incurables at Stockholm, where he might have remained in shelter for the rest of his life. But on attaining manhood he ardently desired to be independent, and above all to be useful to those who are blind like himself. With almost superhuman energy he had copied at dictation grammars and dictionaries of English and other languages, and had obtained many foreign correspondents in Braille from whom he learnt much about blind work in other countries. Oh, for a common language by means of which he could pass on his knowledge to those most in need of it! Esperanto came, and with it a friend, a blind Swedish lady, who found work for him at the Stockholm Braille Library, where he showed such ability that in 1909 he was made editor of the Swedish weekly Braille magazine. Miss Höjer also helped him to establish a Braille printing press which has since become the most important undertaking of the kind in Scandinavia.

In 1912, M. Th. Cart, of Paris, who eight years previously had established an Esperanto monthly magazine in Braille, "Esperanta Ligilo," handed this periodical over to Mr. Thilander, who not only became its hon. editor, but collected the money required to maintain it; for its readers were, and are still, unable to pay the full cost of its production.

"Esperanta Ligilo" has always been the mainspring of the movement among the blind. From the first, M. Cart took care that the very best reading was given, and he also printed the addresses of the readers, so that they could freely correspond with one another. But Thilander greatly enlarged its scope. He induced expert readers to give their experiences for the encouragement of others who were working as pioneers of education in their respective countries. With the help of Mr. T. W. Holmes, who has specialised as an illustrator of books for the blind, he introduced a series of maps with articles on the countries they depicted, a series of "Flags of the Nations" with the distribution of colours shown by a simple and ingenious device, and other diagrams that have rendered "Ligilo" unique among magazines for the blind.

How important the magazine has become is shown by its circulation of 750 copies in over thirty countries, and by the numerous reproductions of articles on blind matters constantly to be found in national magazines for the blind wherever such exist. But in some countries, such as Bulgaria, there is no reading for the blind in their own language, and the only breath of knowledge from the outside world is that provided by "Ligilo." This might still have been the case in the countries of Latin America, had not such pioneers as Mr. Taladriz, of Argentina, Mr. Cuadra, of Chili, and others, encouraged by Thilander's initiative, established Braille magazines in Spanish for their blind friends and pupils.

Among the effective work done through Esperanto for the blind I may cite the introduction of the reduced international rate of postage on Braille. The acceptance of this proposal by the Postal Union was facilitated by the combined efforts of blind Esperantists in many countries, and has made it practicable to circulate Esperanto books throughout the world from libraries for the blind, such as the National Library in London. This Library has a collection of several hundreds of Esperanto books which are issued to many foreign readers. Thilander, with his usual generosity and appreciation of the practical, at once printed a list of these books in Braille for free distribution among the borrowers.

In 1920 the blind women of Austria made known their lack of wool to their fellow Esperantists. They had no means of subsis-

tence but by knitting. Immediately they were put in touch with the War Victims' Relief Society, which provided them with wool and bought back their work to give to other sufferers. Later, the employment of the blind in industry by Mr. Ford, of Detroit, and by factories in Germany, the capacity of blind women to manage their households as shown by experiments in Sweden, the success of blind masseurs in Great Britain, and similar important developments have all been given prominence in "Ligilo" and have excited attention in other countries.

Then there are the Esperanto Congresses, at which blind members are usually present. I well remember with what excitement I met many of my correspondents at Cambridge in 1907! Since the war this feature has been extended, and at some congresses nearly a hundred blind Esperantists, mostly connected with the education and employment of the blind in divers countries, have taken part. What this means to most of them who are more or less cut off from the outside world can only be imagined by those who know them.

Esperantist correspondents often become firm friends, and assist one another in innumerable ways. Some teach their respective languages, using for the purpose the Esperanto dictionaries published in Braille by Mr. Thilander, the National Institute for the Blind, and others.

Socially, Esperanto has proved a great boon to not a few who by joining local Esperanto groups have found seeing friends willing to receive them into their circle on terms of equality. It was a seeing Australian Esperantist who suggested to Mr. Takeo Iwahashi that he should come to Edinburgh and read for his M.A. degree, which he has since taken with distinction. He is now reading for his Ph.D., and studying blind work in London in order that on his return to Japan he may advance the higher education of the blind there.

That which makes Esperanto such a practical means of communication between nations is its simple and regular construction and the fact that its words are chosen from the most widely known roots in use throughout Europe. Thus it is far easier to learn than any other language, and especially by the blind, for its grammar and dictionary are comparatively small works and have been printed in Braille in all the chief languages of the world. But its acquisition does require a certain amount of application, especially at the beginning, and I would suggest that anyone who wishes to learn it should write to me for information and such help as one can give by correspondence. My address is: Penso, Shepperton. I may often be able to put the beginner in touch with an Esperantist club or with a private Esperantist in his neighbourhood from whom he can get help in the pronunciation and practice in conversation. A good dictionary in four volumes, and "The Esperantist Teacher" in two, are published in Braille by the National Institute for the Blind, and may, of course, be borrowed from the National Library, which also contains much Esperanto literature, including translations of foreign works not available in English.

"THE BLIND MUSICIAN AND HIS WORK"

ON Tuesday, October 25th, Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., gave a lecture on the above subject to the boys of Oundle School, Mr. Sinclair Logan, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., providing piano and vocal illustrations, chiefly from the works of blind composers.

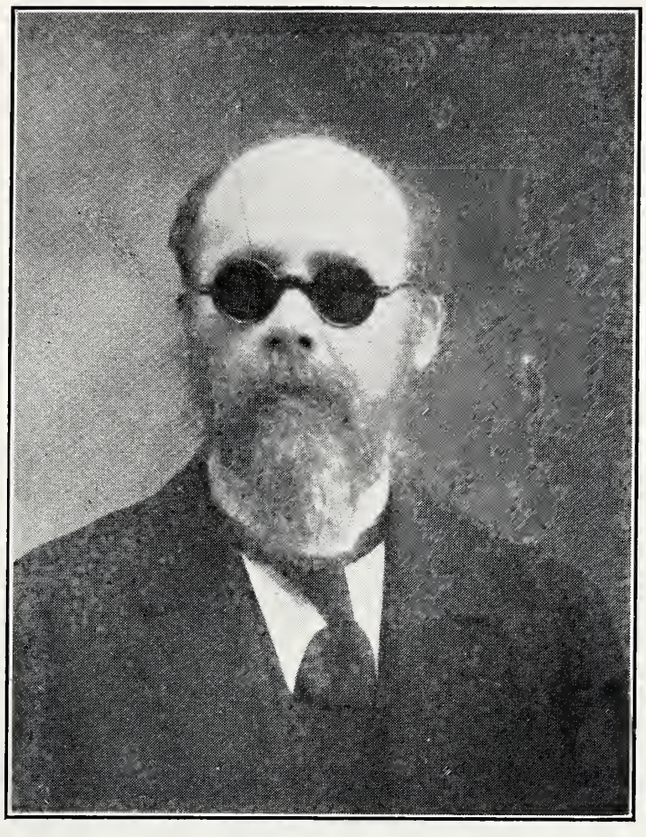
In his lecture Mr. Warrilow described the Braille and Moon alphabets, and gave a brief account of Braille Music Notation methods of memorising music, some particulars about recreations and games for the blind, and a few amusing episodes in connection with how the blind get about alone. A crook-handled walking stick was requisitioned for showing the Moon alphabet. For instance, commencing with the Roman letter J, six letters were shown by holding the stick in different positions, other four by subtracting the crook, and still other four by using the crook alone. Similarly, by means of a large card with six spots, a concise account was given of the Braille alphabet and of Braille Music Notation. The boys showed the keenest interest throughout, both in the lecture and in the music. The last group of pieces: Caprice, for the piano (Sinclair Logan), Festival Toccata, for the organ (Wolstenholme), and the "Tannhaüser" March, for piano and organ, were received with speical enthusiasm. After some very appreciative remarks by the Head Master, Mr. K. Fisher, who expressed the opinion that it would be educationally valuable for such a lecture to be given at all public schools, three cheers were asked for and given with thrilling effect.

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

M. PIERRE VILLEY

TO-DAY the subject of our biography is a blind Frenchman, well known in the literary world by his works on the history of literature, and in the world of the blind by his work for the blind. We propose to speak of him from these two points of view. It is of interest to recall that this blind man became a cultured *savant* at a time when books for the blind had not yet attained their present high standard, and that it was by means of his erudition that he arrived at the social position which he occupies to-day.



PIERRE VILLEY

Pierre Villey was born in a town of Normandy which is to-day visited by many English people—the city of Caen. Our countrymen go there to visit the tomb of William the Conqueror, and to admire the abbeys founded by him and his wife, Queen Matilda. The subject of our biography belonged to a cultured family living in the neighbourhood. His father was professor of law in Caen—a well-known economist—who, during the last twenty years of his life, was a member of the French Institute. When little Pierre completely lost his sight at the age of four and a half, those around him were anxious for his intellect to develop as widely as possible; luckily the means were available to these ends. The second child in a family of nine, he tells us that he owes much to his brothers and sisters, as regards both his physical and intellectual development; they read aloud to him, and he was able to join in many of their games, sometimes in town, sometimes in the freedom of country life. His brothers are now engaged in various callings—one is a lawyer, one a farmer, another a professor of physics, another a manufacturer, yet another a doctor. One and all, they evince the deepest and most affectionate interest in the work of their blind brother.

He commenced his studies at the Lycée in Caen, in the company of his youngest brother with whom he worked and who read his lessons to him. Pierre was older than his companions and easily surpassed them in most branches of study. But his parents were ambitious for him, and feared lest this education should lead to no practical result. They had heard of the National Institute for Young Blind People in Paris, and they were advised to send their son there in order that he might learn a profession accessible to the blind. The Paris school has an excellent conservatoire of music, which prepares professors and organists, many of whom obtain excellent posts. Our young friend did not show a marked talent for music; but his intellectual aptitude was noticed by his teachers, who decided to try an entirely new experiment, namely: whilst living at the Blind Institution, the boy should continue his studies at the Caen Lycée, going there with his sighted companions, and accompanied by the Proctor's son who offered to guide him and help him in the preparation of his lessons. The experiment was successful beyond anticipation. A year had been lost in ineffectual music lessons at the Institution; the time must be recaptured, and in order that he might be in the same class as the little companion who was

to help him, he was obliged to skip a class and compete with children who had already started Latin. In spite of the lost year, Pierre, at the end of his first year at the Paris Lycée, took almost all the prizes in his class, and the same thing happened in the years that followed. In France, the best pupils of all the Lycées and Colleges in the country are invited to compete amongst themselves at the end of the scholastic year in various branches of study. This is called "Le Concours général des lycées et collèges," an original institution excellent for stimulating the zeal both of pupils and masters. The distribution of prizes takes place each year in the Salle des Fêtes of the old Sorbonne with great solemnity, and under the presidency of the Minister of Public Instruction. Great was the surprise that year when a small blind boy, led by a friend, ascended the platform again and again to receive prizes for philosophy, history, English, Latin and Greek. In all he received six prizes and five *accessits*, a success obtained by few sighted boys. Without these he would never have been admitted to the entrance examination of the *Ecole Normale Superieure*, a characteristically French Institution, which prepared professors for secondary instruction as well as for higher education. To gauge the place held by the institution in the intellectual life of the nation, it suffices to remember that it has counted among its members such men as Hippolyte Taine, Edmond About, and Pasteur, and that to-day a quarter of the members of the French Academy are old pupils of the school. The entrance examination is extremely difficult, and each year only thirty-five of the best candidates from all parts of France are accepted. Pierre Villey took a fifth place in the entrance examination in 1900, and he left the school when he had received his degree at the Sorbonne, being the first of his year.

He had already decided to specialise in the history of French literature, and had chosen as the thesis for his doctorate the study of a French writer who was very greatly appreciated in England—Michel de Montaigne. He took a journey to Italy, in order to delve deep into the Italian literature of the Renaissance and trace the influences to which Montaigne had been subject. He also worked in the Paris Libraries, reading, or having read to him by a secretary, all the works published at the time of Montaigne, as well as all the Greek, Latin and Spanish works which Montaigne could have known, so that he might understand the development of his ideas and follow the evolution of his work. He pursued these studies actively when he was a boarder at the Fondation Thiers, another interesting institution, probably unique, which was conceived in a singularly literary spirit. This Institution was not founded by Thiers himself, as might be imagined by the name, but by a relation of Thiers', who wished thereby to perpetuate his memory. Five young Frenchmen are received there every year for a period of three years, are boarded and lodged in one of the most beautiful quarters of Paris, at the entrance to the Bois de Boulogne, and even receive a monthly allowance and an annual holiday subsidy, in order that they may undertake journeys abroad when these are deemed useful for their studies. The only obligation imposed upon them is to use the liberty thus assured them in studying a subject which is left entirely to their choice. Before going there, M. Villey gave an address at the Sorbonne, which was published later, entitled "Sources and Evolution of the Essays of Montaigne." In France, the theses for the degree of doctor of letters are often of considerable magnitude, entailing long years of research; those of M. Villey comprised two large volumes in octavo, forming a thousand pages of closely printed type.

It was universally agreed at the Sorbonne and among the *savants* that the young doctor had presented the history of Montaigne's thoughts in an entirely new way. His methods of work are explained in one of his books, of which we will speak later. His great object was to show that there was nothing marvellous in his success, which was rendered easy by means of the Braille system. He was chosen to be professor of the history of French literature, first at the University of Clermont-Ferrand, where he remained for six months only, then at the University of Caen, his native town, where he has remained ever since.

Whilst continuing his studies, he published a series of works on the sixteenth century. Besides Montaigne, he wrote on Marot, Rabelais, Ronsard, du Bellay, d'Aubigné, etc. Some of these studies received a flattering reception from the French Academy and the French Institution, and in 1923 the Broquette-Gonin Prize, value 1,000 frs., was awarded him by the French Academy.

We will now take up the subject of M. Villey's work in the blind world. From the

time when he was a student at the Normal School he was in close collaboration with Maurice de la Sizeranne, founder of the Valentin Haüy Institution, which for the blind of France stands practically in the same position as does the National Institute for the Blind in England. Amongst questions which have most profoundly attracted his attention are the growth of the professional activities of the blind, Braille productions, and the numerous publications on the subject of the blind. The necessity of finding new professions for the blind is a pressing one in every country; but a matter which is even more difficult than finding new professions is that of putting them into practice. M. Villey was especially successful in his propaganda on behalf of blind telephonists, at about the same time as they were beginning to obtain posts in England. In both countries it was difficult to persuade the heads of large business houses that a blind man or woman could undertake the responsibility of the switch-board, and it needed people of sufficient authority to win them over to their cause. Still greater were the obstacles which stood in the way of the employment of blind clerks; and it may here be mentioned that up to now results have been far less favourable in France than in England or Germany. M. Villey has invented a new method of stenography in relief, and has had a machine constructed by means of which a blind person employed for the last seven years at a large firm in Paris writes up to 160 words a minute; it must be remembered that French words are usually much longer than English words, which contain many monosyllables, and that in consequence the speed of 160 French words is superior to the speed of 160 English words, and permits of a very rapid dictation. At the moment, M. Villey is hoping to invent a small noiseless machine for the taking down of lectures and conferences.

Perhaps amongst all the newer professions, massage is the one which has most greatly interested him, owing to the good results obtained to date. In 1906, when he was engaged in organising courses of massage at the Valentin Haüy Institution, this profession was new to the blind of France. Since then the course has been conducted by blind doctors, particularly by Dr. Fabre, who is himself an expert masseur and has taught his method to numerous generations of blind masseurs who have subsequently obtained good posts. M. Villey himself went through a course of massage that he might better understand its technicalities.

The Braille Library, of which he undertook the management in 1918, has grown rapidly. In six years the number of volumes has increased from 6,000 to nearly 100,000, of which a large proportion is in manuscript. At the same time, the number of volumes issued annually has been doubled; from 32,000 it has grown to more than 64,000. Approximately 2,000 plates of Braille music have been produced, a great effort having been put forward in the last few years to supply blind musicians with high-class musical studies. M. Villey has largely contributed to the creation of this musical section, for which volunteer copyists work in a most devoted manner. His position in the Braille Library enables him to get into touch with all those blind people who seek a higher education, and he is their mainstay and their guide. In order that he may help them more and more, he has undertaken research work of a technical and mechanical nature. Whilst trying to think out the construction of a kind of Braille duplicator for the Library, he invented during the war an apparatus with movable type, of which a model is to be seen in the Valentin Haüy Museum. Afterwards he learned that the Germans had forestalled him before the war, by inventing an apparatus similar to his which was used at Leipzig as early as 1917. He was arrested in his researches by the very high price of the apparatus and by technical difficulties, but has not given up the hope that one day he may be able to make use of his labours in this direction.

As regards the publications for the blind, he has personally superintended, and to a large extent edited, the Valentin Haüy Review since its re-appearance after the war in January, 1919. This magazine is a kind of " Beacon " for the French blind and for those interested in the subject, and has been in existence for 44 years. It is not only an organ of information of all that takes place in the world in respect to the blind; it also publishes studies of an original nature on questions of sociology, pedagogy, etc., and is of great value to all those who wish to obtain instruction in blind affairs. Above all, M. Villey has published three volumes on the blind which are standard works: two of these appear in a collection of works on scientific philosophy; one a psychological essay, ' The World of the Blind," published in 1914, of which an excellent English trans-

lation appeared some years ago ; the other a sociological essay, " The Blind Man in the World of the Sighted," which appeared this year, and which has not yet been translated into English. Previously, in 1922, M. Villey had printed at the Alcan Library a work on the pedagogy of the blind, in which he has endeavoured above all to put forward the guiding principles and to some extent the philosophy of the subject. In some ways these three works constitute a whole. He shows the forces of the blind man's psychology, and puts forward the best means by which these forces can be elevated to their highest level, or at least at a level necessary for him to retain his place in society. Having shown the reactions of society to the phenomenon of the blind in the past, he studies by the light of a century and a half of experience the best methods by which a man can adapt himself to the society of the sighted. Besides these three works, we must mention a large number of articles which are addressed, some to the public such as those which appeared in the most important French reviews, others to specialists, for example, an article published in October, 1926, in the " Journal des Inventions," in which he traces the history of the Braille system since its beginning, and gives a number of figures in illustration.

M. Villey is the General Secretary of the Valentin Haüy Association, a post designated to him by Maurice de la Sizeranne, the founder, which he himself occupied until his death. He is a member of the Head Council of Public Assistance at the Ministry of Work and Hygiene, representing the interests of the blind. When people express astonishment at his ability to carry on his threefold activities of professor, scholar, and worker for the blind, he replies that this would have been impossible without the treasured companion who aids him so admirably in his work.

BRITISH LEGION CONCERT BY BLIND ARTISTES

AT the invitation of the Hon. Miss L. Mabel Gough-Calthorpe, sister of Lord Calthorpe, the National Institute provided the programme for a sacred concert at St. John's Church, Ryde, on Armistice Day, the proceeds being given to the British Legion. The participating blind artistes were as follows :— Miss Isabel Vass, L.R.A.M., soprano ; Mr. J. R. Collacott, violinist ; Mr. Sinclair Logan, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., baritone and pianist ; and Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., organist.

The party was hospitably entertained at St. John's Vicarage, by Mr. and Mrs. Gillson-Gill. The programme comprised solos for all four artistes, and piano and organ duets, while the violin, piano and organ happily combined to accompany Miss Vass in Gounod's " Ave Maria." The whole programme was greatly enjoyed by a large congregation, chairs in the aisle being necessary to meet the additional demand for seating accommodation. The collection realised over £24, an advance upon that of the previous year.

JUBILEE OF THE REV. DR. BURNS

A FINE tribute was paid by the citizens of Edinburgh to the Rev. Dr. Thomas Burns, of Lady Glenorchy's Parish Church, on the occasion of his ministerial jubilee. In the presence of a crowded gathering Dr. Burns was presented with his portrait painted by Mr. H. W. Kerr, R.S.A., "in appreciation of his many public services, especially on behalf of the welfare of the blind in Scotland." The Rev. Professor Mackinnon, Vice-Chairman of the Royal Blind Asylum, who presided, spoke of Dr. Burns' unbounded energy, not only in his official sphere as a parish minister, but in a variety of public services. He said that the directors of the Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum fully recognised what he had done, not only in Edinburgh, but in Scotland, for the welfare of the blind. They were particularly grateful to Dr. Burns for his work on behalf of the blinded sailors and soldiers.

The Rev. Dr. Norman Maclean said that the City of Edinburgh owed a great debt to Dr. Burns, not merely because of the great work he had done for the blind, but because he had beautified the city by one of the most beautiful churches erected in recent years. For that church and its halls Dr. Burns had collected the sum of £21,000.

In thanking those present, Dr. Burns, in reply, spoke of the great happiness given him in his fifty years' service of the church. He also spoke of his work on the Edinburgh School Board for eighteen years as a governor of George Heriot's Trust, and as a member of the Merchant Company's Educational Board, and alluded to that other service which had been so dear to his heart—the welfare of the civilian blind and of the blinded sailors and soldiers.

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)



IT is a matter of common knowledge that most blind workers are profoundly dissatisfied with the methods of remuneration obtaining in the areas in which they are employed. It is of little use attempting to dismiss this matter with a mere shrug of the shoulders, and an ejaculation much to the effect that no system is likely to yield satisfaction.

The objections should be examined and an attempt made to eliminate every genuine cause of friction.

As I have indicated elsewhere, this dissatisfaction is to some extent due to the variability of the scales of augmentation, and to other factors, all of which influence the standard of life in a substantial degree, yielding conditions in one locality infinitely superior to those obtaining, it may be, even in an adjoining district.

It is not easy, however, to determine how uniformity can be secured even if it be ever so desirable, for innumerable considerations have to be carefully noted, and a thousand and one adjustments made, whilst essential characteristics may differ widely, all being of such material importance as vitally to affect the scheme of things.

I have previously alluded to the desirability of instituting some system under which every blind person would be entitled to receive a Disability Grant, to be determined on a percentage basis, according to the ascertained degree of capacity, the balance of his income being made up from economic earnings.

There are some difficulties associated with such a proposal—that is at once conceded—but the objections are infinitesimal when compared with the disadvantages with which we are at present confronted, for whenever we seriously attempt to grapple with the thorny subject of methods of remuneration we at once discover that the Institution across the way has another basis of calculation and declines to come into line for reasons that cannot be immediately overcome.

In our anxiety to promote the common weal we are invariably striving to reconcile the irreconcilable by attempting all manner of impossible readjustments, and the net result of our contrivings is merely to make " confusion worse confounded."

When we are discussing the ability of an Institution or of an Area Committee to provide more substantially for non-seeing workers, we are so frequently apt to overlook the material potentialities of the district and to assume that the standard of life of the fully competent employee does not, and cannot, seriously affect the prosperity of the concern. A little consideration will at once dispose of this point of view, for the conditions governing the existence of the normal man must naturally influence the economic status of those unfortunate people who are less efficient.

It is granted that this is a proposition which can easily be carried too far, but its definite relevance will not be disputed by those who have given any serious thought to the matter.

On more than one occasion I have been taken to task for venturing to say that the standard of life of non-seeing workers, since it is not determined entirely by productive energy, must be largely influenced by conditions governing the economic wellbeing of the fully equipped artisan, and, as yet, I see no very good reason to modify that point of view, for it seems to me that those people who can give either in services or goods 100 per cent. capacity to the community—or in other words, maximum value—are, from the very nature of things, entitled to say what proportion of their surplus wealth may be appropriated to the assistance of the less efficient.

Let me put this viewpoint in yet another way, not for the purpose so much of placating opposition, but rather with a view to emphasising the underlying and all-important contention.

I am obliged to admit that so long as loss of sight represents a handicap or limitation imposed on those who are engaged in the industrial sphere, so long must it be admitted that anything they are able to obtain over and above their productive value is a concession made by the community, not a right to be enforced. Such a concession rests upon the goodwill of Society, and it matters not in the slightest degree from whatever source the help comes—it is charity or the crystallised

result of a benevolent attitude of mind expressed in money or in kind as the circumstances may most appropriately determine. It would be well if less emphasis were laid upon our alleged rights, and we concerned ourselves just a little more with the duties which we obviously owe to a community that is so exceedingly generous to handicapped folk. If we were half so zealous in our determination to secure a reasonable standard of output and economic efficiency as we are to bring about an increase in the rates by which earnings are augmented, we would be enabled to put up a far better case to the employers than is possible to-day.

If we could be induced to talk and act a little more like *bona-fide* workers, and fret and fume just a little less because all the charity does not come our way, we would be far happier people, and our status as citizens would rise proportionately.

I hold that the foregoing considerations are relevant to any and all methods of remuneration, for the attitude of non-seeing workers towards these matters is, and must continue to be, of primary importance if the many problems with which we are at present confronted are to be solved.

Probably the nearest approach we have to the recognition of a system under which liberal subsidies are provided to minimise the handicap of blindness is found in the City of Hull, where the augmentation grant is an hourly rate which yields a higher weekly allowance than that available in any other centre in Britain where piece-work conditions of employment are recognised. This system has much to commend it, and if the workers concerned really mean business, they can demonstrate beyond all dispute that the receiving of a Disability Allowance suggests an appropriate and satisfactory way of meeting a difficult situation.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE BLIND

PURCHASERS of Christmas gifts for their blind friends are advised to send for the catalogues issued by the National Institute for the Blind. Catalogues of books and music are supplied free of charge, whilst the apparatus catalogue is 4d.

Christmas cards with messages in Braille type are available at prices ranging from 1d. to 1s. Cards with messages in Moon type are priced 1d. and 3d. each.

NEWS ITEMS

WE learn from the "Matilda Ziegler Magazine" that the State of Kentucky has joined the other American States which allow a pension to blind people who have no other resources.

The great chess master, Richard Reti, of Czecho-Slovakia, paid a visit to Worcester College recently and played against 24 opponents from the College and 13 of the strongest players of the county. He lost 3, drew 2 and won 32 games.

Two inmates of the Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh, who have been in the Institute for 70 and 50 years respectively, received presentations from the Board of Directors last month. Their names are Alexander Crawford, aged 83, and Thomas Brand, aged 71.

Early in the New Year a Kynema Studio Committee comprising members of the Illuminating Engineering Society, the Photographic Society, etc., is to conduct an inquiry into the use of open arcs in film studios, and their effect upon the eyesight of the actors and those engaged in production.

Starting with only a penknife and a file, Mr. Ernest Hall, a blind music-seller of Manchester, has made a violin in seven months, and has become so attached to the instrument that he will not sell it. He says that experts have pronounced it a "perfect instrument."

It is not generally known that Alf. Mansfield, the old fly-weight boxer, who has become totally blind, had trouble with his eyes, even before his great fight at the Holborn Stadium with Jimmy Wilde the year following the Armistice. while during his match with the inimitable Jimmy, his trainer had to inject eye drops at the finish of practically every round to enable Mansfield to see sufficiently to carry on. Even thus handicapped the Aldgate boy put up a wonderful fight for thirteen rounds, when he was forced to retire.

THE growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.—*George Eliot.*

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

AT the annual meeting of the Association for Employment of the Industrious Blind, at the Workshops for the Blind in Belfast, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava presided. The annual report showed that during the year 139 blind and five deaf and dumb persons were benefited. Amongst this number wages to the amount of £4,474 were distributed, and in addition £3,349 as augmentation of wages.

* * *

THE new central premises of the Fife and Kinross Society for Teaching the Blind, in Kirkcaldy, were opened by Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bart., last month. The premises include workshops and a room for meetings. Under an agreement come to between the Board of Health and the Joint Committee, a fund of £1,500 has been provided for, of which Sir Michael Nairn and Mr. John Nairn, of Kirkcaldy, have provided half, the Board of Health granting one-fourth, and the Joint Committee the other fourth. Mrs. Nicholson, daughter of the late Sir Michael S. Nairn, has agreed to discharge the feu duty of the site, making it freehold.

* * *

CARDIFF INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—The 60th annual report of this Institution shows that good progress has been made in all directions. In spite of trade depression, the sales amounted to £7,618 4s. 9d., showing a decrease of only £63 on the year's trading compared with the previous year. The Guardians have recently approved an extra scale of assistance toward outside blind persons up to 22/6 per week for a single blind person and 33/- per week for a married couple one of whom is blind. The number of workers remains about the same as before, *i.e.*, 88. Some 20 men and women are now undergoing training in their particular handicrafts and other subjects.

Subscriptions and donations to the value of £561 were received, besides donations for wages augmentation, £158, and donations to necessitous cases, £48. Wages paid to blind workers amounted to £1,669, and bonuses and augmentation of wages to £3,725. Amongst other grants was one of £1,163 from the Ministry of Health, and of £2,750 from the National Institute for the Blind.

WEST OF ENGLAND INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—During the year ended March 31st, 1927, 79 boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 16 have received education at this Institution, whilst 25 persons over the age of 16 have been instructed in various handicrafts. In addition 17 adults were employed in the workshops. Wages to blind workmen totalled £1,041, and £617 were paid in augmentation. Donations to the value of £51 were received. Government grants totalled £870, and a grant of £500 was made by the National Institute for the Blind. Legacies to the value of £3,367 were received during the year.

* * *

THE old Manor School, now forming the Workshops of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, York, was officially opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, on November 4th. The King's Manor, which was originally the house of the Abbot of St. Mary's, and later the Palace of the Stuart Kings, is one of the most interesting and prized historical associations of York. Since 1833, the building has been occupied by the blind school founded in memory of William Wilberforce.

Her Royal Highness was received by Sir Wilfred Thomson, Chairman of the Governors of the School for the Blind, the Archbishop of York, and the Rev. C. F. Hardy, Principal of the School.

Having unlocked the doors of the new workshops, Her Royal Highness went inside the buildings and inspected the brush and basket work made by the blind. She displayed the greatest interest in everything she saw, spoke with some of the men, and perused the title deed, which bears the signature of King George, and conveys the property to the custody of the Committee. The premises were used as an elementary school from 1835 to 1924, and when the education authorities relinquished their claim the property reverted to the Crown and was later transferred to the Committee.

* * *

NORWICH INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—In presenting their annual report, the Committee of this Institution state that its affairs and the health of the inmates have been most satisfactory during the year under review. Sales, which totalled £1,795, showed a decrease

of over £100, owing to general depression in trade.

Subscriptions amounted to £220, donations to £12, and legacies to £394. Constant employment, without short time, was provided for all the workers, and there were 72 names on the books on March 31st. Wages paid totalled £625.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

THE winter concert season had a most successful opening at Sunbury on October 12th, when an audience which filled the Parish Hall to overflowing attended in response to the invitation of Lady Higgins.

On the 20th, His Worship the Mayor of Deptford and the Mayoress, Alderman L. W. Hall, J.P., and Mrs. Hall, organised a concert in the Town Hall, and—thanks to their generosity in paying personally all postage and printing—handed over a substantial net contribution to the Fund. The Mayor, when introducing Mr. Preece, testified to his conviction that the Greater London Fund was doing an excellent work for the blind; the Rt. Hon. C. W. Bowerman, J.P., M.P. (Deptford), and Sir George Hume, M.P. (Greenwich), warmly endorsed the Mayor's appeal. Mr. Dence (L.C.C.) Chairman, Appeals Committee, Workshop for the Blind of Kent, was among those present, and a large number of the Councillors and other leading residents attended to give His Worship their support.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Lewisham, Councillor and Mrs. A. E. Webb, attended the initial effort of Lewisham H.O.B. in conjunction with the Alford Club on the 22nd, when the programme was again entirely provided by the G.L.F. Concert Party which has also visited Harringay, Harefield and Neasden during the month.

Individual blind artistes assisted the Memorial Hall Orchestra, Wandsworth, in their annual concert for the benefit of this Fund, and also co-operated with local artistes at St. Andrew's Hall, Coulsdon, when the programme was under the direction of Mr. Geoffrey Harris, A.R.C.O. At the latter concert the Rev. E. H. Griffiths, R.N., Principal of the Royal School for the Indigent Blind, was one of the speakers.

Ruislip H.O.B. held a successful whist drive on the same night as one of its annual winter efforts for the Fund.

The month closed with the Hallowe'en ball at Hammersmith Palais de Danse, which was not only as successful a social event as usual, but is likely to be a record financial one. Up to the time of going to press over £330 has been received. The attractions included a lucky draw made by Mr. George Gee, the prizes being presented by Miss Gertrude Lawrence. Dancing and fancy dress competitions were judged by Mr. Maxwell Stewart, Miss Pat Sykes and all the principals of "The Girl Friend" Company, together with the Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith and Mr. John Hassall, R.I. Miss Brown and Miss Haig, of "The Girl Friend," also presented prizes for a special Yale Blues competition. Miss Flora le Breton was the Spirit of Hallowe'en in a delightful ballet by the dancers of the Thorne Academy of Dancing. Mr. Santos Casani, Miss José Lennard and their delightful "Charleston Babies" demonstrated. Among those who brought parties were Mrs. Bonham Carter (with Lady Fulton's party), Lady Sharp (acting Chairman in place of Lady Fulton, who was much missed), Field-Marshal Sir Claud and Lady Jacob, Lady (Trevor) Dawson, Sir Geoffrey and Lady Clarke, Mrs. Harry Moncreiffe, Mrs. Curran-Gadsden, Mrs. Rigg-Howard, and many other members of the Committee and "Helpers of the Blind."

BRAILLE WRITING COMPETITION

IT may be remembered that a sum of money from the "Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund" was granted to the Library to inaugurate a writing competition to encourage a higher standard in Braille.

The Library will be holding the first competition in January next. It will be open to children under 16 years of age. The test will consist of the transcription of an extract from Grade I into Grade II Braille.

Marks will be given for :—

1. Knowledge of Braille rules and contractions.
2. Workmanship: including arrangement, clearly made dots, and freedom from erasure.
3. Accuracy.

Owing to the need of limiting the entrances, schools are invited to hold a preliminary contest, and to send in the work of their two best Braillists under the age of 16.

Those wishing to compete who do not attend a school should apply as soon as possible to the Secretary.

THE BLIND IN JAPAN

By U. KIBA

(Continued from the "Outlook for the Blind")



IN Japan we have already educated the blind systematically these fifty-one years, and though quite a few pupils have attended the schools, the evolution of their education does not parallel that of the seeing. The school laws for the blind, which were issued by the Imperial edict in 1923, compel every prefecture to establish one or more public schools for the blind within eight years of that date. In 1878, the first school for the blind and dumb was established in Kyoto privately under the name of the Kyoto Mo-a-In (Institute for the Blind and Dumb) by Mr. Tashiro Furukawa, pioneer in the education for the blind in our country. It was soon after followed by the Mohan Mo-A-Gakko (Model School for the Blind and Dumb) of Osaka in 1879, and the Kyoritsu Kun-Mo-In (Co-operative Institute for the Blind, and now the Tokyo School for the Blind under the direct control of the Government) of Tokyo in 1880, and many others of different kinds established by public and private enterprise. There are at present one government, 28 public and 53 private schools, making 82 in all, and containing about 3,300 pupils in the aggregate. Most of the schools for the blind are organised together with those of the dumb, and some are small. The census of 1925 shows us that about 300 of these pupils are of school age, that is, only one-tenth of the total number of blind children of school age (6-14) and the others are over age. According to the school laws for the blind, we have an elementary department of six years and a high school department of four years in every residential school. In the elementary department, following the work outlined for the public schools, only academic subjects are offered; the high school department contains three courses—general, musical and massage acupuncture. The general course is also academic and prevocational, and includes all branches in the public school curriculum. The latter two courses are vocational, and one half the time for instruction is given to the literary subjects, and physical training and the other half to the vocational training.

It is desired that the work given there might be equivalent—though not identical—to that given in general education, and the peculiar needs of blind pupils must be kept in mind. The distribution of subjects is as follows :—

ELEMENTARY DEPARTMENT.

Morals, language, arithmetic, history, geography, science, handwork, handicraft (for girls), singing, physical training.

HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

General Course (Prevocational) :—Morals, language, foreign language, mathematics, history, geography, physics, chemistry, housekeeping, handicraft (for girls), singing, physical training.

Musical Course (Vocational) :—Morals, language, foreign language, history, geography, theory of music, practice of music, housekeeping, handicraft (for girls), singing, physical training.

Massage Course Acupuncture (Vocational) :—Morals, language, foreign language, mathematics, natural history, physics, chemistry, outline of medical science (anatomy, physiology, pathology, hygiene), acupuncture, moxibustion, housekeeping, handicraft (for girls), singing, physical training.

In the Tokyo School for the Blind, the training department for teachers, the elementary and the high school departments are established by the Government. Of course, we get from general supply some teachers of the blind, but this department is the only one specially organised for that object, and in reality has supplied most teachers to the schools for the blind all over the country. The department embraces two kinds of students, the seeing and the blind, taking different courses. The seeing are sub-divided into the general course and the Western music course, of one year respectively, while the blind, into the music course (Japanese or Western according to their wishes) and the massage-acupuncture course, with the term of three years for either. The tables for these are :

TRAINING DEPARTMENT.

Seeing.

General Course :—Morals, education, psychology, method of teaching, Braille, ophthalmology, handwork, handicraft (for girls), singing, physical training.

Western Music Course :—Morals, education, psychology, language, English, theory of

music, practice of music, physical training.

Blind.

Music Course:—Morals, education, psychology, language, English, theory of music, practice of music (Japanese or Western), housekeeping, handicraft (for girls), physical training.

Massage Course Acupuncture:—Morals, education, psychology, language, English, physics, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, pathology, hygiene, practice (massage, shampooing, acupuncture, moxibustion), housekeeping, handicraft (for girls), singing, physical training.

In the two music courses and the massage-acupuncture course, the same amount of time is allotted for both the literary subjects and the vocational side. And here we must add a few more words on the general education of the blind. The system is co-educational and residential, but some pupils may, upon the request of parents or guardians and with the approval of the principal, attend the schools from home or outside. We have not yet compulsory education laws for the blind, and except for tuition and room the expense of their education is not paid. But the Government subsidises every student in the training department for teachers. We cannot get more than one tenth of the total number of blind children to receive the schooling they should. And we have no kindergarten yet, though permitted to establish one by law. Partially-seeing children are instructed with the blind. The starting of the kindergarten and partially-seeing classes are left for us as the problems of the future.

The seeing teachers from the training department teach literary subjects or Western music according to their preparation, in the elementary and the high school departments. To these courses those who possess the same qualifications as the teachers of elementary schools are admitted. The blind teachers who finish the music course or the massage acupuncture course become the teachers of the respective subjects in high schools. These courses select their students from among the graduates of high schools for the blind. Such teachers, seeing and blind, have obligations under the Minister of the Educational Department, during the term for which they are subsidised by the Government.

So when the blind pupils finish the courses of high schools for the vocations and those of the training department and are found efficient in their own subjects, they can either accept posts in the schools for the blind or start business on their own account, getting licences for teachers and business from the Government or the prefectures, with the exception of music for business. Those who practise massage, shampooing, acupuncture, and moxibustion daily receive or visit patients as in the medical profession.

Massage, shampooing, acupuncture, and moxibustion are also taught by private masters who take apprentices in cases where practices are decreasing year after year with the progress of the education for the blind. The years of apprenticeship range from three to seven according to age and attainment. The apprentices receive no education, but, on the other hand, get plenty of work to do, and their condition is no better than that of a day labourer. In the country, these poor apprentices are even to-day sent out each evening by their masters to herald their presence by shouting, or blowing on a small whistle in the streets for patients. It is, indeed, heart-rending to hear their melancholy cries, particularly on a cold winter night.

In our country there are few social works for the blind. This comes from the difference in the family system and the formation of blind guilds. Most blind persons live in their own homes with their parents, brothers, sisters and other relatives, and some of them join the guilds for their own training and jobs, but it is true that there are some who live in idleness, some who are in need of relief, and some newly blind adults who want re-education. So we must provide officially and privately for the social work to execute the plan for promoting the spread of education and the interests of blind adults. We have now some associations for the blind and most of them are playing their parts as social centres, that is, for study, information, home teaching and recreation. And moreover we must do our best to co-operate most closely with public officials in providing for the protection of handicapped people.

As above mentioned, the blind of Japan have been active, self-supporting and independent and have received a real education through the clash and contact with things and social conditions as they are. Some have distinguished themselves in literary work and

others have been very successful in music or otherwise. But as a whole, their blessings differ from those of the seeing, and they can not yet enjoy all the advantages the seeing have. What shall we do for them?

Firstly, we shall have to give them thorough education in the particular branches in which they excel—things which they can do with their keen senses of hearing and touch, or with their concentrated minds—such as music, massage, shampooing, acupuncture, moxibustion, religion, teaching, literature or law. For this purpose we shall have to recognise the same privilege that the seeing have in education and give them, whenever possible, more education than the seeing are securing, in order to make up for the drawbacks caused by blindness, such as slowness in work, and make them well capable of competing with the seeing.

Next, we shall have to help to introduce the blind to society as capable people, in order to assist them to get rid of unjust prejudices concerning their ability and in working hard and living well with the social background they secure.

Lastly, we shall have to pay great attention to their spiritual education and let them catch the broadest viewpoint, for the blind are often in unfortunate and trying surroundings and are apt to be depressed or desperate, and sometimes they are too easily affected or tempted by others owing to their limited experience. Good education can help to make up for the loss of sight, and suitable and active work can help them to forget it, but nothing can compensate them for their misfortune so well as the spiritual light and the blessing of God.

In a word, we shall have to give them equal advantages with the seeing—not more and never less.

CONFERENCE AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

ON Friday, November 25th, a Conference of Supervisors of Home Workers' Schemes for the Blind was held in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind. It is not possible to report the proceedings now, as we are about to go to press, but a full account will be given in our next issue.

DEATH OF KARIN THILANDER

THE death of Mrs. Thilander, which occurred quite suddenly on October 13th, while she was apparently in her usual health and was sitting at her desk in the act of speaking to a friend by telephone, has robbed Sweden of one of its most indefatigable workers for the blind, not only of her native country, but of the whole world. Born in 1866, the daughter of Gustaf Höjer, chief inspector of lighthouses in Sweden, she lost her sight very gradually, and received part of her education at the Blind School at Stockholm. At seventeen she entered the Swedish Royal Academy of Music and obtained the medal and diplomas in composition, singing, organ and piano playing, and for some years held organ appointments and taught music. In 1903 she discovered the talented blind youth, Harald Thilander, in a home for incurables, succeeded in finding him work at the Braille Library, and later helped him to establish a Braille printing press which between them they made the most important undertaking of its kind in Scandinavia. They were married in 1919, and their devotion to one another and to their common ideal—the service of their fellow sufferers—was the source of the greatest happiness that life can give.

She learnt to operate all the machines and to perform all the work of the Press, in order that she might teach her husband and help him in every way. It was wonderful to see with what dexterity she would repeat conversations to him—for he is so deaf that hers was the only voice he could hear clearly—and would repeat long talks by telephone or from the wireless receiver with instantaneous precision.

All who know and love Harald Thilander will feel deep sympathy for him in his terrible bereavement.

GUILD OF BLIND GARDENERS

THE third annual prize-giving in connection with competitions for boys' gardening teams and for the best gardens cultivated by boys and girls of the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, took place at the School on the 24th October.

Mrs. A. Duncombe (President of the Guild) delivered a spirited address on gardening to the pupils and afterwards awarded the prizes.

The Principal of the School, the Rev. E. H. Griffiths, R.N., highly commended the work of the Guild at the School.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
LIST OF ADDITIONS
November, 1927.

FICTION.

Argosy Magazine. Short Stories by H. de Balzac, O. Henry, J. Galsworthy, G. Parker, R. Sabatini, and others	3 vols.
Bacheller, J. Light in the Clearing	5 vols.
Birmingham, G. A. Smuggler's Cave	3 vols.
Brighouse, H., and Forrest, C. Hobson's	4 vols.
Broster, D. K. Flight of the Heron	6 vols.
Browne, K. R. G. Following Ann	4 vols.
Buchan, J. Dancing Floor	4 vols.
Chesterton, G. K. Incredulity of Father Brown	4 vols.
Cleugh, Sophia. Ernestine Sophie	7 vols.
*Crofts, F. W. Cask	4 vols.
*de la Mare, W. Three Mulla-Mulgars	3 vols.
Ferber, Edna. Dawn O' Hara	3 vols.
Ferber, Edna. Show Boat	6 vols.
*Fletcher, J. S. Stolen Budget	2 vols.
Fielding, H. Tom Jones	17 vols.
Haggard, Sir H. R. Black Heart and White Heart	1 vol.
Hocking, J. Wagon and the Star	5 vols.
*Johnston, Mary. Great Valley	3 vols.
Lucas, E. V. Rose and Rose	3 vols.
Montgomery, L. M. Rainbow Valley	4 vols.
Sabatini, R. Bellarion the Fortunate	7 vols.
" Sapper." Out of the Blue	4 vols.
Skrine, M. J. H. House of Luck	3 vols.
Stockley, Cynthia. Wild Honey, and other Stories	4 vols.
Wallace, E. Fellowship of the Frog	5 vols.
Wentworth, Patricia. Black Cabinet	4 vols.
Ertz, Susan. After Noon	4 vols.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Bailey, C. (Editor). Legacy of Rome (" E. W. Austin Memorial Fund ")	9 vols.
Bailey, J. Milton (" E. W. Austin Memorial Fund ")	3 vols.
*Baldwin, S. On England, and other addresses	2 vols.
Burdett, O. William Blake (" E. W. Austin Memorial Fund ")	3 vols.
Benson, A. C. Essays of To-day and Yesterday	1 vol.
Carroll, John S. Motherhood of God, and other Sermons	4 vols.
Congreve, G. Treasures of Hope for the Evening of Life	3 vols.
Deane, A. C. How to Enjoy the Bible	2 vols.
Edwards, Tickner. Bee Master of Warrilow	3 vols.
Ervine, John. Drama from " Encyclopaedia Britannica "	1 vol.
Fowler, W. Warde. City—State of the Greeks and Romans (" E. W. Austin Memorial Fund ")	5 vols.
Fry, Ruth. Quaker Adventure	6 vols.
Gould, F. J. Wonderful League (League of Nations)	1 vol.
Graham, Winifred. My Letters from Heaven (Messages in Automatic Writing)	2 vols.
Green, Mrs. J. R. Henry II	4 vols.
Grou, L'Abbe (Edited W. H. Hutchings). Hidden Life of the Soul	3 vols.
Grenfell, W. T. Down to the Sea (Yarns from Labrador)	2 vols.
Hamilton, C. Unwritten History	4 vols.
Hodgkin, H. T. Missionary Spirit and its present opportunity	1 vol.
Inge, Dean W. R. Lay Thoughts of a Dean	4 vols.
Jones, R. M. World Within	2 vols.
Journal of George Fox, Revised by N. Penney	7 vols.
King, Bolton. Life of Mazzini (" E. W. Austin Memorial Fund ")	5 vols.
" King, Richard." Return Journey	3 vols.
Lawrence, T. E. Revolt in the Desert	6 vols.
Little White Flower (Autobiography of Thérése of Lisieux), Translator T. Taylor	5 vols.
Lodge, Sir O. Modern Scientific Ideas, especially the idea of discontinuity (the substance of broadcast talks on " Atoms and Worlds," October, November, 1926)	2 vols.
Morris, W. Story of Siguard the Volsung and the Fall of the Niblungs	6 vols.
Penn, W. Some Fruits of Solitude	2 vols.
*Repairing the Piano	1 vol.
Ritchie, Lady (Edited Hester Ritchie). Letters of Anne Thackeray Ritchie (" E. W. Austin Memorial Fund ")	5 vols.
*Russell, B. A.B.C. of Atoms	1 vol.
Stevenson, L. Mathilda Wrede of Finland	2 vols.
Somervill, F. C. History of England (Benn's Sixpenny Library)	1 vol.
*Thomson, C. L. Précis Writing for Schools	1 vol.
Walpole, Bishop G. H. S. Kingdom of Heaven: what it is and how to enter it	2 vols.

GRADE I.

Bunyan, John. Pilgrim's Progress (Told to the children by Mary Macgregor)	2 vols.

GRADE III.

Dyer, T. F. T. Strange Pages from Family Papers	3 vols.
Housman, L. Followers of St. Francis: Four plays of the early Franciscan Legend	1 vol.

GRADE I.

Burnham, C. L. Jewel	3 vols.
Cady, H. E. Lessons in Truth (a course of 12 lessons in practical Christianity)	2 vols.
Reigel, R., and Loman, H. J. Insurance—principles and practice, Parts 1 and 2	3 vols.

* Presented by the National Institute for the Blind.

* *

IN order to prevent disappointment and ensure the delivery of extra consignments of books from the National Library at Christmas time, readers are asked to notify the Secretary, Miss O. I. Prince, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1., that extra books will be needed, as early as possible in the month of December. Many were disappointed in 1926, as, although by strenuous efforts the double supplies asked for were all despatched from Westminster before December 21st, consignments were held up at the Post Office and not delivered at their various destinations until after the holidays, owing to the enormous extra pressure of Christmas work at the Post Office.

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

FICTION—

7561-7562	"Brown Smock," by C. R. Allen, 2 vols.	per vol.	6 3
7509-7512	"Captain Blood," by Rafael Sabatini, 4 vols.	per vol.	8 6
7513-7514	"Martin of Old London," by Herbert Strang, 2 vols.	per vol.	6 0
7491-7494	"The Man of Property," by John Galsworthy, 4 vols.	per vol.	6 6

POLITICAL—

7515-7518	"France and the French," by Sisley Huddleston, 4 vols.	per vol.	8 6

RELIGIOUS—

5703	"Ruth and Esther" (Authorised Version)		3 0
5719-5720	"The Book of Job" (Authorised Version), 2 vols.	per vol.	3 3

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
	BIOGRAPHY.	
Ian Colvin.	Cecil John Rhodes	1
Philip Guedalla.	Palmerston	7
	CLASSICS.	
Livingstone, R. W.	Defence of Classical Education	3
	ENGLISH LITERATURE.	
Bowman, W. W.	Correct English	1
Robinson, H. Crabb.	Blake, Coleridge, etc.	3
	LAW.	
Carter, A. T.	Law of Contract	4
Pease, J. G., and Landon, P. A.	Law of Contract	8
	MODERN LANGUAGES.	
Beaumarchais.	Mariage de Figaro	2
Michelet, J.	Louis XI. et Charles le Téméraire	4
	PHILOSOPHY.	
Jennings, H. S., Prometheus; and Fuller, J. F. C.,	Atlantis	1
Turner, W. J., Orpheus; and Gloag, J., Artifex		1
	POETRY AND DRAMA.	
Blake, W.	Poems (Ed. by W. M. Rossetti)	3
Beaumont, F., and Fletcher, J.	Knight of the Burning Pestle	1
Housman, A. E.	Shropshire Lad and Last Poems	1
Shaw, G. B.	Back to Methuselah	5
	POLITICAL SCIENCE.	
Gooch, G. P.	Political Thought in England (from Bacon to Halifax)	3
Soltau, R. H.	French Parties and Politics	1
	THEOLOGY AND RELIGION.	
Gardner, P.	Evolution in Christian Doctrine	2

ALL advertisements for *The Beacon* should be received not later than the 20th of the month preceding that of publication.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to the 14th November, 951 wireless sets and 1,228 pairs of headphones have been distributed among the blind, the local associations acting as distributing centres. As a result of the appeal, 381 wireless sets and 196 pairs of headphones have been received.

Donations from private sources and grants from the National Institute for the Blind have enabled the fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and the number distributed.

Readers should note that in future all wireless sets sent out by the National Institute for the Blind will remain the property of the Institute. When sets are no longer required by the users they should be returned to the Institute.

OBITUARY

Major R. C. WILLIAMSON, M.B.E.

WE learn that the death has taken place of Major R. C. Williamson, M.B.E., Superintendent of the Scottish National Institution for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, Newington House, Edinburgh.

The son of a soldier, the Major joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1878, and was on active service in the Zulu War and also in the South African War. During the Great War he acted as Recruiting Officer at Stirling and at Greenwich, and for his services he received the M.B.E. He was a J.P. for Renfrewshire. Major Williamson was appointed Superintendent of Newington House in 1918.

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the November Numbers)

Progress.—When the King goes to Parliament—The Gurkha as I know him—Catherine of Lethen on her Bridal Morn (Poem)—Obituary: Mr. H. M. Taylor; Rev. H. Shearer—Our Prize Competitions—Solution of Crossword Puzzle—Advertisements—Matters of the Moment—Correspondence—Money Talks—" J.P."—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page—Uncle Sambucq's Fortune. Supplements: Chess; Home Occupations: Man's Golf Jumper; Wrap Shawl. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—Alexander the Great as an Explorer—A Frock-coat Portrait of a Great King—When and where to read different types of Books—Life in a Battleship—The Korean Student—Migration—Margaret Ogilvy's Son—New Books—Some Autumn Novels in Brief—Thackeray's Rent—Dream Flights. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—The Motor Car and its Story, No. 5 (Mechanical Elephants)—Swiftness in the Animal Kingdom—The Seven Wonders of the World—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—Are Red Berries Weatherwise?—The Magic of Words. Supplements: Comrades; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Muscle Training in the Treatment of Obstetrical Paralysis—The Treatment of Chilblain—Official Notices. Supplements: " Massage Journal " Inset: Disabilities of the Sacro-Iliac Joint (concluded). New Health Lessons. Tennis Leg. Skin Lesions following ultra-violet light Therapy. The Members' Congress. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Clara Schumann as Teacher—Scriabin and the Pianoforte Teacher—Notes and News concerning the Blind—Special Notice—Correspondence—Tuners' Column—The Little Organ-Book of Bach. Supplements: Braille Music Reviews. Announcements. Inset: Organ: Gigue in G minor, by C. Wood. Song: Ye Verdant Hills (bass air from " Susanna ") by Handel. (Subscription: Inland and abroad: 8s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Moon Magazine.—The Derelicts—Prelude to Adventure—An Adventurous Voyage—Months Wrongly Named—Behind Locked Doors. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 9s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Fog—News Items—Favourite Quotations—Personalities in the World of the Blind: Mr. Robert B. Irwin, M.A.—The Poet's Corner—Legal Notes—International Notes—Stageland—Advertisements and General Notices—Laughter in Whitehall. Supplements: Literary: Charles Dickens. Music: Schubert, the Lightning Composer. Song: Is Life a Boon? (Sullivan). (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—The Electric Brain—When Books were Scarce—Ants I have Eaten—Mechanical Men in America—Egg that Butts—Gabriel Samara: Book II: Chapters VII to IX—Thought for the Month—A Slum Boy's Great Story—Review of a New Book—The Little Bird of Lahore—Cuckoo Mystery Solved—A Cockroach Story—Operating Theatre in the Sky—Why be Poor?—Bees Hoaxed.

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Resumé of Programmes Broadcast from all Stations of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND.

WANTED, Lady Home Teacher and Visitor (sighted) for welfare work among the blind; age 25-40. Applicants should hold the Certificate of the College of Teachers of the Blind, or be prepared to obtain the same. Salary £130-£156, according to qualifications. Applications (marked Teacher), giving full particulars and copies of two testimonials, to be received not later than Dec 8th, 1927, by the Hon. Secretary, 7 Cobden Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1928

JANUARY

Vol. XII No. 133

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	CHURCH—		
8165	Hallelujah, Contralto Solo from Cantata No. 29, by Bach (D, Compass A, to E′), pocket size	2	0
	ORGAN—		
8166	Romance in G, by Beethoven (arr. by A. Boyse) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8167	Suite in A, Solo No. 9, by Corelli (arr. by W. J. Westbrook) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8168	Toccata in F, by T. Crawford, (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8169	Variations Poétiques, by A. Eaglefield Hull (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8170	Adagio in D from the Clarionet Concerto, by Mozart (arr. by J. Wodehouse) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8171	A Ground (Evening Hymn) by Purcell (arr. by Harvey Grace) (Bar by bar)	2	0
	PIANO—		
8172	"Seguidillas," by Albeniz (Bar by bar)	2	0
8173	"Canterbury Tales" (Nine Miniatures), by Leslie Fly (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8174	"Les Plaintes d'une Poupée," by César Franck (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8175	"La Sérénade Oubliée," by Henry Geehl (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8176	"Rêve d'une Colombine" (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8177	"Merry-Andrew," by J. Ireland (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8178	Sonata Facile in C, by Mozart (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	4
8179	Whimsical Waltzes, by Frederick Nicholls (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8180	"The Song Master" (Ten Songs arranged by Markham Lee), by Schubert, Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8181	Casse-Noisette Suite (Nut-Cracker Suite), by Tschaikowsky (Bar by bar), pocket size	5	8
	DANCE—		
8182	"Meadow Lark," Song Fox-Trot, by H. Keidel and T. Fiorito (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8183	"Ting-a-ling," Song-Waltz, by J. Little (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8184	"Shalimar," Song-Waltz, by H. Nicholls (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8185	"The Desert Song," Song-Waltz from "The Desert Song," by S. Romberg (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
8186	"An Old Sacred Lullaby," by D. Corner (arr. by S. Liddle) (G, Compass E to D′)	2	0
8187	"Violets," by Muriel Herbert (E, Compass D to E′), pocket size	2	0
8188	"Sanctuary" (The Little Old Garden), by T. J. Hewitt, (G, Compass D to E′), pocket size	2	0
8189	"O murm'ring breezes," by A. Jensen (E flat, Compass C sharp to F′)	2	0
8190	"A Birthday Song," by A. Macfadyen (D flat, Compass C to A′), pocket size	2	0
8191	"Lock up, fair lids," by M. Peerson (arr. by Warlock), (G minor, Compass D to D′), pocket size	2	0
8192	"St. Agnes Morn," by Purcell (arr. by Geoffrey Shaw) (B flat, Compass D to F′), pocket size	2	0
8193	"London Town," by Martin Shaw (E minor, Compass B, to E′)	2	0
8194	"Serenade from Don Juan," by Tschaikowsky (A minor, Compass A, to D′), pocket size	2	0
8195	"That's the way for Billy and me," by Felix White (G, Compass D to E′), pocket size	2	0
	MUSICAL MONOLOGUE.		
8196	"Naughty Words," by Ernest Longstaffe, pocket size	2	0

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

2606-2611	"Green Pastures," by Una L. Silberrad (limited edition), 6 vols	per vol. 12	0
2389	"Inasmuch," by M. Andrews	1	6
2390	"A Seeker after Gold," by A. Beatley	1	6

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The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XII.—NO. 133. JANUARY, 1928. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

THE RANK AND FILE



THE beginning of a New Year is usually a time of mingled hopes and regrets—hopes for what we may do in the future, regrets for what we may have done in the past. Perhaps there are some abnormal natures that have no regrets, some superhuman natures that have nothing to regret; but, generally speaking, there is in all human nature that curious medley of sensations created by faith in the future and failure in the past, which breeds tears as readily as smiles and chides its vanity with its own irony.

Were it not so, we believe human achievement would be immeasurably less. There is a spur in dissatisfaction which urges the soul to distances far beyond the goal of complacency. The contented person exists as a cat exists, plump and drowsy in the blink of the firelight. But it is the malcontent that lives and achieves in the glory of the sun—the man or woman whose heart responds not only to the thrill of joy but to the thrill of sorrow, and who shares in the travail of the world.

We are accustomed to dwell on the courage and optimism of the blind, on their plucky fight against a tremendous handicap, on the deeds they have accomplished and the hopes that inspire them. But we must not forget that the blind world, like our own world, has its failures, and that these need sympathy and help much more than the successful. Progress has a tendency towards ruthlessness, and in its rush onwards is liable to be heedless of those who lose step and lag behind. The intellectual are impatient with the stupid, the strong-minded diffident of the nervous, and the man with seven-league boots strides over many a forlorn plodder.

Yet that plodder should not be disconsolate. A shattered hope has often gone further than an accomplished ambition. Clouds may hide a star, but they can never extinguish it. It is still beyond, and to have a "beyond" is to have something which a successful man often lacks. In fact, he may have missed it, it may be behind him—some neglected weed by the wayside. Why not turn back, then, and seek it, to cherish and cultivate it, so that the wayside may be not a trampled record of one man's progress, but a garden of living flowers, bright to light all onwards.

Those with sight who work for the blind may have all the will in the world to help, but they can never obtain that intimate knowledge of difficulties to be overcome which the blind themselves possess. Accordingly, the best man to help a blind man who has failed is the blind man who has succeeded. It is right that the blind man with courage and brains should set the pace of progress, and during the last half century that pace has been rapid. But we believe that the progress made would be more uniform and more stable if the considerable number of blind men and women who have definitely succeeded in life were to gather together, pause, and take heed of the thousands whose progress is painfully slow or who have lost heart and fallen by the way.

For in the work of the blind for each other lies the salvation of all.

And by such work we do not necessarily mean the extension of organised ameliorative activities through governmental assistance or public generosity. But we do mean the extension of the sympathy which sees no petty rivalries where help is needed, which can sink a personal opinion in a general opinion, and which can eliminate self for the good of the many. Those with eyesight are invariably sympathetic towards those without it, but the blind themselves should exceed them in such sympathy. The successful blind have acquired a power of vision which is something outside the experience of a man with eyesight, and it is this power of vision which the blind "failures" so urgently need—a power which no philanthropist, no millionaire can give them, but only the blind themselves.

We all know that progress in the blind world has in the past been chequered by many absurd jealousies and by several serious differences. Such, to a certain degree, must always exist in an imperfect world, but we firmly believe that they may be minimised by the extension of a spirit of fraternity amongst the blind themselves. They must show an example of unison and self-sacrifice to those with eyesight who are anxious to do all they can to help. Quite a considerable number of would-be philanthropists need such guidance; it is remarkable how often somebody who is perfectly genuine in the desire to help spoils the effort by always knowing better what help to give than the person who seeks it. And the true guides are the representative blind men and women of to-day—men and women who *know*, and do not merely surmise, what the rank and file need, and who, armed with their own success, are willing to share in the "travail" of the blind world.

THE EDITOR.

WE wish to rectify a slight printers' error which occurred in last month's article on the extension of the Barclay Workshops. A sentence alluding to hand-loom weaving contained the word "netting" instead of "knitting." It should read as follows :—

"These workshops are the only ones in London, or indeed in any country, where hand-loom weaving of this kind, in addition to knitting, is carried on on a comparatively large scale."

OBITUARY

The Hon. Mrs. CAMPION

WE greatly regret to announce the death of the Hon. Mrs. Campion, who in 1893 founded the Barclay Home and School for blind and partially blind girls at Brighton.

As we are about to go to Press, we propose to give an account of her devoted work for the blind in our next issue.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
	CLASSICS.	
Tacitus.	History. (Translation)	5
	ECONOMICS.	
Hawtrey, R. G.	The Exchequer	1
	HISTORY.	
Hardinge, H.	Julius Caesar	2
O'Neill, E.	England in the Middle Ages	1
Robinson, W. S.	Short History of Greece	5
	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Gibb, H. A. R.	Arabic Literature	2
	POLITICAL SCIENCE.	
Cannan, G.	Freedom	1
	PSYCHOLOGY.	
Joad, C. E. M.	The Mind and its Workings ..	1
	SCIENCE.	
Forbes, G.	Earth, Sun and Moon	1
	THEOLOGY AND RELIGION.	
Steiner, R.	The Soul's Probation	2

A NOVEL TEST

"IN a recent article on Bakery a curious story is told of a test which is being made in an institution for the blind in Paris," says the *British Baker*. "Bleached flours, it is asserted, have always a faint smell, lacking altogether the strong full corn smell of flour that has not been so treated. It is, of course, a well-known fact that where the sense of sight has been lost or is lacking at birth the other senses of taste, smell, touch and hearing are usually very highly developed. According to the chronicler, bread made from bleached and unbleached flour was placed before the blind inmates of the institution in question, with the result that the bread made from bleached flour was rejected by an overwhelming majority."

HOME WORKERS' CONFERENCE



A CONFERENCE of supervisors and others interested in the welfare of home workers was held in the Armitage Hall at the Headquarters of the National Institute for the Blind, on Friday, November 25th.

There was a good attendance, the majority of Home Workers' Schemes being represented. Representatives also attended from the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education.

Mr. J. W. Tate, J.P., who presided, in his opening address emphasised the rapid growth in the number of Home Workers, and remarked that there were 2,400 employees in the workshops for the blind of the country and that already as the result of four years' work there were not less than 1,400 home workers who were recognised by the Ministry of Health.

In a paper dealing with matters connected with the training of home workers, Mr. M. Priestley, Superintendent of the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, urged that if possible training should be provided in a well-equipped residential institution, and emphasised the necessity of close co-operation between training and employing agencies. Mr. Priestley drew attention to the importance of home workers receiving a sound business training, and suggested that this might well form one of the subjects for evening classes. He considered that equipment should be provided by the employing agency and that in some cases, such as a knitting machine, it should be provided three months prior to completion of the training period. Although training generally could be carried out at most of the approved institutions, Mr. Priestley recommended that the training of piano tuners for the whole country should be provided at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, and only suitable candidates admitted.

The supply of raw materials to home workers was introduced by Mr. A. Burkwood, the Supervisor of the Home Workers' Scheme conducted by the London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind, who stated that lack of capital on the part of home workers was a serious obstacle to success. He suggested that all home workers should be provided at the outset with a sufficient stock of materials to enable all orders to be executed without delay. Mr. Burkwood referred to the danger of bad debts, and said this was a risk a scheme must be prepared to face. He recommended that materials should be supplied at cost price, those responsible for the scheme paying carriage and meeting all other incidental expenses.

Mr. J. Landers, who is in charge of the Home Workers' Scheme conducted by the West of England Institution for the Blind, said that the purchase of goods produced by home workers must be an important part of any scheme. He considered that home workers should be encouraged to sell their work locally if possible, and that it should be made advantageous for workers to do this. Good workmanship must be insisted upon, and definite orders should be given for what is required.

In a paper dealing with the marketing of home workers' products, Mr. A. Platt, supervisor of home workers, National Institute for the Blind, expressed the opinion that in the case of Home Workers' Schemes it was desirable to develop a retail trade. In order to obtain the good will and interest of local residents, Mr. Platt urged the importance of organising exhibitions throughout the districts covered by each scheme, as in this way general interest in the cause of the blind would be created. He suggested that employing agencies should combine and advertise extensively, creating in this way a bigger demand for blind workers' products. To secure the funds necessary for advertising purposes, Mr. Platt suggested that employing agencies should each contribute a small percentage of their turnover.

An interesting paper on inter-trading was read by Mr. S. W. Starling, Assistant Secretary, Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, who stated that a number of institutions factored goods made by the sighted which are purchased by the blind. He remarked that when one agency trespassed on the area of another, bad feeling was created, and that only by establishing a system of co-operative selling could this misunderstanding be removed. Mr. Starling maintained that inter-trading would enable small agencies practising a limited number of trades to augment the variety of goods it had for disposal, and their displays of goods made by the blind would be more attractive and artistic. The public would thus be able to realise to the full the extent of the capabilities of blind workers. Mr. Starling

submitted that inter-trading involved a business proposition, that some recompense must be offered to an agency undertaking the sale of goods made by the workers under the care of some other organisation, and suggested that a discount of 25 per cent. was desirable. In considering the possibilities of inter-trading, Mr. Starling stated that much would depend upon the spirit in which the question was approached. It would be necessary perhaps to break down institutional prejudices and insular ideas, and to look at the question from a broad point of view.

Mr. J. W. Turner, supervisor of home workers, Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, was responsible for a paper on "Augmentation of Earnings"—a problem which simply bristled with difficulties. Mr. Turner briefly described the methods which had been adopted in connection with the Birmingham Home Workers' Scheme, and stated that from enquiries made the methods of augmenting earnings were very varied, and it seemed desirable to adopt if possible a uniform and national scale. As regards augmentation, home workers were far worse off than workshop employees, and he recommended the adoption of workshop scale No. 3 as suggested by the Advisory Committee in their sixth report. Mr. Turner considered that home workers who through their own fault failed to earn a minimum amount each week should be withdrawn from the scheme, and that while married women should not be encouraged to become home workers, augmentation should not be withheld provided a sufficient number of hours was devoted to their occupation. In fixing the rate of augmentation, Mr. Turner stated that at the Birmingham Institution earnings from recognised and subsidiary occupations are taken into account. He opposed the idea of paying augmentation based upon the individual needs of each person, and reminded the Conference that augmentation was given to make good the difference between the output of a blind person and that of a sighted worker. Mr. Turner dealt with the question of paying augmentation to home workers earning exceptionally high wages, and stated that if in such cases workers were debarred from receiving any benefit it would be killing initiative and enterprise and encouraging the blind worker to slack.

The Conference terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Tate for presiding.

It is hoped in due course to issue a full report of the Conference.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

HUDDERSFIELD BLIND SOCIETY.—The annual report states that the total number of blind people registered in the area during the year under review was 228. The home workers' section has been successfully carried on during the year, and the home visitor and works superintendent have regularly supervised the thirteen blind workers and assisted them in their numerous employments. This section of the society is one of the most important. Only one home teacher is employed by the society, but the works superintendent visits certain home workers, and this experiment is now working most satisfactorily. During the year 1,300 visits were made. Relief to necessitous blind persons amounted to £594. * * *

AT a meeting of the Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire Committee for the Care of the Blind, held in the Town Hall, Stoke, the Chairman (Alderman H. Leese) announced that an official communication had been received, notifying the committee that the local Workshops for the Blind had been approved by the Board of Education as a training centre for blind persons over 18 years of age.

Just over six months ago the local Workshop for the Blind comprised only a small basket-making department, but the progress made since that time has been so satisfactory that to-day the industries carried on at the workshops include brush-making, mat-making, machine-knitting, and basket-making.

In view of the recognition of the Workshops by the Board of Education, the Committee will be entitled to £35 per annum for every trainee over 16 years of age, plus a maintenance grant. In the cases of students sent by bodies other than local education authorities, or by private persons, the Board of Education have approved a grant of £27 per head per annum.

The Committee accorded a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and to the Secretary-Manager (Mr. T. Wharton), for their successful representations to the Board of Education in connection with this matter.

WE offer our congratulations to Dr. James Graham, Director of Education at Leeds, who is Chairman of the Yorkshire Branch and a member of the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind, on having received the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

PERSONALITIES

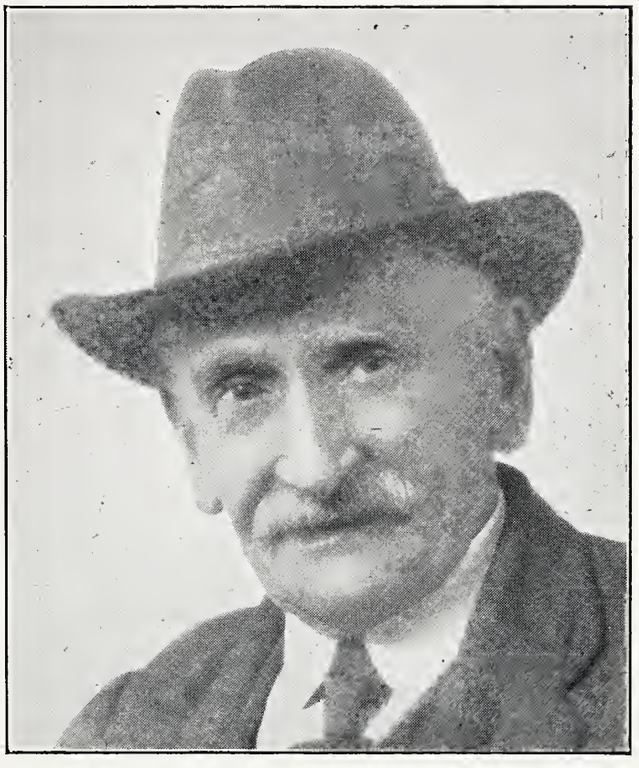
IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

Mr. W. H. EASTMAN



IF variety be the spice of life, then the life of the subject of this sketch might rightly be described as "all spice."

Starting work in a brickyard at the early age of eight, working from dawn to dark for the princely sum of 2s. 6d. per week, he has touched life at almost every possible angle. When he tells of his early experiences and the grim struggles of his young manhood, which included long tramps in search of work and frequent visits to the shelters of the Casual Ward with all its horrors, it hardly surprises the listener to hear that he was on the point of becoming an anarchist, but for the fact that he came under the influence of the Methodists, who turned a possible rebel into a positive and zealous champion of the afflicted and oppressed.



Mr. W. H. Eastman.

One of the records of which he is most justifiably proud is that, having begun life and spent some of his boyhood days in the Sculcoates workhouse, under the Guardians, he has now for 33 years been a member of that institution, and has filled the office of Chairman of the Board and of the most important committees.

On his election to the Board of Guardians he threw himself whole-heartedly into an endeavour to improve the condition of the aged, the sick, and especially the children. His success in these matters was such that the adult inmates presented him with an illuminated address and an enlarged photograph, whilst the children of the cottage homes which he was largely instrumental in establishing showed him their love and gratitude by the presentation of an illuminated address and beautiful volumes of Shakespeare's and Wordsworth's works; his colleagues on the Board presented him with an address and a travelling-bag at the end of his year of office as Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Eastman's work in connection with Poor Law is so well known throughout England and Wales that he has been repeatedly elected a member of the Council of the Poor Law Unions Association—the Cabinet of Poor Law work—and, as late as two months ago, he was re-elected by the Poor Law Conference for another term of three years.

Lack of space prevents us from giving publicity to occurrences, many of them humorous, many pathetic, in his varied life, which, starting from his boyhood days in the workhouse, has been crowded with adventures, many successful, with here and there a few failures. He has, he says, received the cheers of the crowd on occasions of victory and the jeers and rotten tomatoes from the same crowd on occasions of defeat. We would, however, like to "adorn our tale" by two incidents, one humorous, one pathetic, which go to show what manner of man he is.

"My house," said Mr. Eastman to his interviewer, "is known as 'the ever-open door.' People come at any hour of the day or night and seek advice on a multiplicity of subjects, some of a most surprising nature. Once—it was shortly before Christmas—we, my wife and I, kept an account of the number of people who had come asking us to sign papers recommending them to participate in the Lord Mayor's Dinner Fund and other

Christmas charities. We found that 670 people had come during those six days, an average of over 100 a day. On the particular day in question, tired out after the day's work, my wife and I were discussing a cup of coffee before retiring to bed at eleven o'clock when there came a knock at the door. I opened it; a little girl stood there. 'Please, Mr. Eastman,' she said, 'mother says, will you come and bring a hammer; our water pipe's busted.' 'Well,' I said, 'what about your dad? Surely he's the person to see to it.' 'If you please, sir, dad's blind drunk and mother can't get no sense out of him. Mother says, please to come at once for the water's all over the place.' Off I went armed with my hammer and repaired the damage. At that time I happened to be supporting the candidature of a friend of mine to a vacancy on the City Council. This man was a plumber, and in supporting him I was able to 'point a moral and adorn a tale.' 'If this,' I said, 'is the sort of thing we are called upon to do at a moment's notice, surely no one would be a more useful member of the City Council.'"

In his *rôle* of Chairman of the House and Infirmary Committee, Mr. Eastman makes a regular practice of visiting the wards, chatting in particular with the patients who have no visitors. One day he noticed a coloured man in one of the beds. He had been taken ill on board his ship, and when the latter came into port he was left to be taken care of at the Poor Law Infirmary. He had no friends and on several occasions Mr. Eastman went to have a chat with him. One day as he sat talking to him the doctor beckoned to him, and, taking him aside, said, "I don't think that coloured gentleman will live many hours longer; he is very ill." After a time, when he had gone back to the coloured brother, Mr. Eastman said to him, "Is there anything I can do for you?" He answered that there was nothing. "Are you quite sure? Is there no message you would like to send, no letter you would like to have written?" At last he said hesitatingly: "Mister, there is just one thing. Kiss me." When the subject of our sketch was a very little boy his mother had frightened him with tales about a black man who would run away with him if he was naughty. To this was probably due the fact that he had always experienced a certain reluctance at any contact with coloured people. So for a minute he was taken aback, but he soon said to himself:—"Never mind his colour. Perhaps it is the last thing you will ever be able to do for him. I kissed him," said Mr. Eastman, when telling the story, "and he gripped my hand and a grateful look came into his eyes. Shortly afterwards he died. I think it was from that moment that I really and truly grasped the idea of Universal Brotherhood, irrespective of class, of creed, or of race."

A branch of work which many years ago won his hearty sympathy and active support was the cause of the blind in Hull and East Riding. He is a member of the Management Committee of the Hull and East Riding Institute for the Blind, as well as a member of the Yorkshire Area Committee. In the early days of the movement very little was done for the blind there, except that a few blind women sat at a shop window re-seating cane chairs in full view of the public gaze. By steady and persistent efforts the work has gradually grown until on the 30th March last 123 blind persons were employed at the Institution, and wages paid to blind employees, including augmentation and maintenance grant, amounted to £8,824 19s. 5d. Under the Corporation Blind Persons Act Committee, of which he was one of the original members, over £8,000 was paid to the unemployable blind, whose incomes are made up to 25s. per week. Holiday allowances to the blind employees of the institution amounted to £963 10s. 7d., all of which was paid out of voluntary funds. Generously, the subject of our sketch gives full credit to his colleagues for all that they have done, but we join in saying with all who know him that he has "done his bit" in this noble work.

His appointment to the Advisory Committee for the Care of the Blind under the Ministry of Health brought him into contact with the work done by the National Institute for the Blind. He was elected a member of the Institute's Executive Council, as representing the Association of Poor Law Unions, and has rendered valuable services in this field of national work. As a member of the Unification Committee he has, he says, been proud to work with his colleagues in unifying and consolidating all efforts on behalf of the blind.

This, then, is the tale of a life full of sympathetic activity. From the Casual Ward to the City Council Chamber is a long, long way, but he has done it. From tramping the country in search of work to dining and shaking hands with Princes of the Royal Blood and Prime Ministers is not the lot of every man;

and, coming from lowly origin, to receive the friendship of some of the noblest men and women in the land is a record of which any man might be pardonably proud.

In conclusion, we take the liberty of quoting his own words when he says : " The greatest regret that I feel is the fact that only at the eventide of a long life have I been brought into contact with the Christ-like work of the National Institute, and my firm intention is that the remaining months or years of my life shall be fully devoted to furthering its interests in every way possible without stint or reserve of body or of mind."

THE BARCLAY WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND

WE have received the 1928 price list of the articles made by the blind women and girls of the Barclay Workshops, and note their wide range from check materials to hand-woven dresses, costumes and coats. The check material can be obtained from 5s. 6d. per yard, and also made up into table-cloths, runners and napkins at prices which range from 10d. to 12s. They are stocked in a variety of colour-schemes.

Charming woven frocks for children are obtainable from 16s. 6d. upwards, and tunic suits at various prices. A hand-woven cotton dress and coat can be obtained from 5 guineas, the same in wool from 6 guineas. Coat-frocks in cotton are priced from 3 guineas, and the same in wool from 4 guineas ; and there is also a variety of knitted coats and jumpers at various prices.

The public are invited to visit the workshops and see the blind girls knitting and weaving, and a selection of work will gladly be sent for the inspection of would-be purchasers.

PUBLIC READING ROOM FOR THE BLIND

A PUBLIC reading room, said to be the first in Germany, has been opened by the municipality of Charlottenburg (reports the British United Press from Berlin).

This reading room, which is attached to the Municipal Public Library, is intended to supply blind artists, artisans and other workers with their professional newspapers and periodicals. The issue of books will be undertaken at a later date.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

NOVEMBER has been a month of many engagements. " Helpers of the Blind " have organised several successful events—a dance at Ashstead, when the Rev. E. H. Griffiths, R.N., thanked Mrs. Lenox and made the appeal ; a concert at Ruislip, being the Circle's second social event this autumn ; a well-patronised Whist Drive at Watford ; a concert at Hayes. Mr. Preece was the speaker at the three last-named events, and at Watford Mrs. Broad repeated her invitation to two blind artistes to entertain the players during the interval—a popular innovation. Bromley Circle supported the excellent concert organised by Miss Margaret Moxham with some of her professional friends, and Helpers of the Blind took the generous collection in response to Mrs. Cresswell's annual appeal at the Kingston Empire.

On November 9th, Geranium Day workers organised a Whist Drive at Hounslow. Lady Becker made a touching appeal for the support of the blind workers, and presented the prizes, which were all articles made by the blind. The Home Industries from Swiss Cottage did a brisk trade.

A new Circle was formed at Feltham on the occasion of the concert organised by Mrs. Hutchings, when the blind artistes delighted a packed hall. The Concert Party also visited during the month Charlton, Walshe House Club Clapham, Acton, Wandsworth, Blackheath, and Egham, the latter on the invitation of the Literary Society. They also visited West Wickham, where the organisation was in the capable hands of Mrs. Cohen ; the Chairman was Sir Henry Lennard, who introduced Mr. E. H. Williams.

Tottenham's Annual Dance took place on November 22nd, when Mr. Wilden Knight again had the capable assistance of Mr. Martin. Lieut.-Colonel Solomon, Conservative Candidate, warmly endorsed Mr. Preece's appeal to those present to support the Fund. There was a good attendance, despite counter-attractions, and socially the event seemed an even greater success than before.

The Rev. W. E. Lloyd was the preacher at the Morning Service at Westminster Abbey on November 20th.

A delightful social event, which other Circles might like to imitate, was the Annual Dinner of the Camberwell " Helpers " It is hoped that the Secretary will send a report for inclusion in a later issue.

PERKINS INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND



MR. EDWARD E. ALLEN recently contributed an interesting article on the Perkins Institution for the Blind, Massachusetts, to the official organ of the Massachusetts Teachers' Federation, called "Common Ground." He starts by calling attention to the classes held by the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University. The lectures in this course cover the history and development of the education of the young blind and the rehabilitation of the adult, together with some advice for reading, and some research. The research work is made possible by the resources of the special reference library of the Perkins Institution, of which the books have been collected for many years past. Mr. Allen tells us that some of the students of the course have come from Hawaii, Portorino and Holland, and that the class of sixteen held at the time of writing, namely, at the beginning of last year, came from eight States, and from Canada, Cuba and Japan. Twelve were pursuing a theoretical and practical course in the special methods of the school. Scholarships are given, in order that more and more promising pupils, either blind or sighted, may come to Massachusetts to be trained for this special line of teaching.

"Practically all the fifty-two instructors of Perkins," says Mr. Allen, "have had either general, normal or collegiate training, but most of them have acquired their special preparation on the job. The forty-eight residential schools for the blind in the United States still select their teachers from the general supply. No definitely special advanced preparation has before been expected or acquired. Harvard University and the George Peabody College for the teachers at Nashville, which gives a summer course for the Perkins Institution, are pioneering to help place the education of the blind on a plane with other professional education, and, doubtless, they will achieve this end before long. A few States have begun to make provision for licensing the teachers of their special schools, and for paying them higher salaries than general teaching of similar grade commands. Why not? The successful instructor of handicapped children must have unusual strength, initiative, resourcefulness, thoroughness, understanding and wisdom, and obviously needs also special preparation. He has a peculiar problem to solve, which is, how most successfully to prepare his pupils for social and economic competency. Teaching them at school is both pleasant and satisfying; the classes are small, and the children usually more serious students than those distracted by excessive 'extra curricular activities.' The pay is increasingly good, and not a few people make this calling their lifework."

Mr. Allen then proceeds to give some details as to the working of the Institution. He tells us that its school sessions, vacations, etc., correspond to those of other schools; that practically all the pupils are residential, necessarily so, because they come from all over New England; the few who live in Watertown go home at night. There are comparatively few blind children of school age, barely 400 in all New England, while there are several times as many deaf children, and therefore more schools for them. Many of its ex-pupils now successfully follow such callings as hand assembling in factories and warehouses, ticketing, wrapping, inspecting, selling, typewriting, making household articles, poultry-keeping, lecturing, home teaching among the adult blind, operating telephone exchanges, piano-tuning, Church-organ playing, practising massage, osteopathy, teaching, preaching, and other subjects. At the Institution there is a museum of thousands of specimens for object teaching; a large library of Braille volumes, of which the yearly circulation exceeds 17,000, most of which is done by mail free of charge. The pupils learn to play all sorts of games, to swim and dive, to coast and skate, to play a modified game of football, and to indulge with zest in competitive athletics. There is a National Athletic Association of the Schools for the Blind, which holds yearly competitions for prizes.

While stressing the difficulty of fitting young blind people for the business competition of the world, Mr. Allen pleads for a better understanding of what blind people can do. "The pity most people give them," he says, "is not helpful—it is destructive rather than constructive. The proverb 'They can who think they can' applies very well to the blind at school; but after graduating the proverb should read, 'They can what the public thinks they can.'"

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)



EFORE concluding this series of articles, I have been requested by a number of correspondents to attempt a more complete vindication of the view-point I have previously expressed, namely, that in order to avoid the complicated systems under which grants are now provided for workshop employees and persons engaged in home industries, a uniform disability allowance should be provided.

I have already clearly indicated that present methods of remuneration constitute a prolific source of discontent and dissatisfaction among blind workers all over the country. It must be obvious, therefore, to all who are desirous of promoting a better understanding that something must be done in the near future to remove these poignant causes of dissatisfaction.

During the Great War, when the difficult and complicated task of assessing disability pensions had to be undertaken, it was found practicable and possible to grade these allowances in such a way as to make awards determinable by the degree of disability or handicap which would be experienced by the maimed man who had to enter the industrial sphere when he was no longer fit for active service.

It will be agreed, I think, that while our pension system cannot be said to have furnished a complete answer to every form of criticism, it has, in the main, provided a satisfactory atmosphere in which we can easily move toward the free discussion of particular cases, and generally secure their readjustment.

It ought not to be beyond our intelligence to devise such a system under which the disabilities of civilian blind persons could be properly assessed, and it is this aspect of the problem to which I desire most particularly to direct the attention of all who are associated with this work.

It is true to say, I think, that every method of remuneration has been applied at various times, save the one which would appear to be based upon the most practical and possible foundation: namely, that by which account is taken in definite fashion of the disability with which the worker assumes his task. Minimum wages have been tried, and have resulted in some instances disastrously, whilst in other situations the system has been so modified and hedged about with conditions that it is difficult to find a precise term which accurately describes the method of remuneration obtaining.

Elsewhere, I have dealt in detail with the minimum wage and its effects in the Scottish institutions, and need not do more here than say that wherever this system has been tried it certainly falls far short of the ideal. I have chosen this description advisedly, because in this article there is no intention of opening up old wounds and giving an impetus to controversies, the revival of which can only be harmful to all concerned, in that it gives rise to a bitterness of feeling that is at all times deplorable, and should, as far as is possible, be avoided.

I am conscious of the fact that whatever system of remuneration may finally be decided upon as offering the greatest measure of security we will not, even then, find it easy to carry the State and the local authorities with us; for it must be obvious to those who have given but the slightest consideration to this problem, that the necessary money cannot be secured from voluntary sources, and our task will, therefore, be to so impress the legislature that the necessary volume of support will be forthcoming in order that any practical proposal may be brought to fruition.

It has already been noted that in workshops we have a considerable number of systems now in vogue which are designed for the augmentation of wages and the development of initiative; but, unsatisfactory as this state of things undoubtedly is, the situation reflected under the various Home Workers' Schemes gives cause for even greater anxiety.

In my judgment it is well-nigh hopeless to attempt to bring about uniformity where conditions are so essentially different; but, assuming that the district rates of payment are recognized and observed by all the agencies concerned, much of the inequality would, of necessity, disappear, provided that a disability grant were made available to all workers.

This latter provision would be a variable quantity, determined by the ascertained degree of capacity of the individual or group of

individuals, and it would seem reasonable to expect that the liability should be borne as between the State and the County or County Borough Authority. The necessity for augmentation scales of payment, whether in the form of flat rates or sliding scales, would be altogether superfluous, because every worker would know that the fixing of a disability allowance would, in point of fact, represent not merely a maximum allowance, but an indication to him that he must strive to earn by his own initiative and capacity the difference between his disability allowance and the sum required for full maintenance.

The Inter-Departmental Committee, 1914-1917, came to the decision that the disability of blindness represented diminished earning-power as between 33 and 50 per cent. This approximation has never been seriously challenged; in point of fact, there is infinitely more evidence now to justify that contention than the data upon which the Committee formed its estimate. It is suggested, however, that the whole problem could be re-examined in the light of existing knowledge, and such variations made as would seem to be desirable.

It may be quite reasonably argued that the imposition of such a system would ultimately lead to greater discrimination being exercised by the training and employment agencies, but most competent authorities will agree that we are fast approaching a condition of things when we must differentiate more particularly between real economic earning power and charitable subsidies, for we cannot hope entirely to escape from the rigours of competition, and in order to safeguard the interests of *bona-fide* workers some kind of productivity and efficiency test must inevitably be decided upon in the near future.

The properly-equipped training and employment agency has everything to gain from such an arrangement, whilst the interests of *bona-fide* workmen would thereby be effectively protected.

It is sometimes contended, particularly by a section of workers associated with home industries, that it would be inimical to the interests of blind people to place earning-power at such a level as to exclude a large number of those who otherwise would be beneficiaries under the Scheme, but we cannot afford too freely to indulge in sentiment at the expense of sound common sense, and, if a large number of persons approach so closely to the status of unemployables as to be hardly distinguishable from that category, the pressure of circumstances will force us in the near future, whether we like or not, to reserve for such persons facilities for occupational interest, thus leaving a clear line of demarcation between those who can, and those who cannot, be construed to be properly trained and properly equipped workers.

In an earlier paragraph I have referred to the finding of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind in respect to the ascertained reduction of earning-power, but it is perhaps necessary here to state that this finding only had reference to workshop employees—there was no other data available. Now, however, that experiments are being made in other processes than those generally adopted and practised in workshops for the blind, we may find that in consequence of greater scope being given to the enlarged activities of non-seeing people, and the margin between the seeing employees and trained blind workers in the same occupations, the percentage of deficiency is not nearly so high as that which now exists in generally recognised trades. Indeed, the experience of some Captains of Industry has already been recorded in this connection, and I have indicated elsewhere that Messrs, Henry Ford & Co. state that their blind employees are 100 per cent. efficient, while Direktor Perls of the Siemens-Schuckert Works, Berlin, told us some three years ago that the large number of non-seeing people under his control were 85 per cent. efficient.

(*To be continued.*)

BLIND MEN AND SMOKING

"THE statement that smoking cannot be enjoyed in the dark," writes a reader of the *Morning Post*, "is flatly contradicted by my own experience. I am quite blind, and yet I can thoroughly enjoy a pipe. I may explain that I smoke the strongest shag of the kind with which Sherlock Holmes used to elucidate his most knotty problems; and even before I lost my sight I never smoked in the day-time, but always at night. A census of blind men taken some time ago revealed the fact that more than half of them were smokers. Milton enjoyed smoking when he was blind. Professor Fawcett, the blind Postmaster-General of Gladstone's first Ministry, was a great smoker, and the tobacco he used was always very strong."

Dr. WILLIAM MOON



"GOD gave me blindness as a talent to be used for His glory. Without blindness I should never have been able to see the needs of the blind." A living proof of the use to which the writer of these noble words put his "talent" is to be found in the books and periodicals printed in the type known by his name, and so readily mastered by the blind.

William Moon, who was born in 1818, lost the sight of one eye as the result of scarlet fever when he was four years old. He was twenty-one years of age, and preparing to take Holy Orders, when he became totally blind. The devotion of his sister helped him to adapt himself to his new life, and he began to devise means by which to help those who, like himself, were unable to see. He sought them out and formed a class of blind pupils, which subsequently grew to be the Asylum for the Blind in Brighton. He soon gave his attention to the various systems of reading for the blind which were in use at that time. Having learnt and examined them thoroughly he attempted, he says, "the construction of a system of reading adapted to all classes and capacities of the blind. By the Divine blessing upon my endeavours, I was enabled to project a plan embracing very simple characters for the alphabet, which is composed principally of the Roman letters in the original or in slightly modified forms, combined with full orthography. Where I could not alter to advantage the more complex letters of the Roman alphabet, I removed them altogether, and substituted new characters in their stead, and when the alphabet was completed it was found to consist of only nine characters of very simple formation placed in various positions." The first book in Moon type, which was a monthly magazine, was issued on the 1st June, 1847. It was "The Last Days of Polycarp," and was followed in the next month by "The Last Hours of Cranmer." Morning and Evening Portions followed, and then the Gospel of St. Luke. Urgent demands were soon made for portions of the Bible, and the work was undertaken. The cost of production was, however, very heavy. "I found," he writes, "I must have recourse to stereotyping. . . . . A plan occurred to me by which I was able to stereotype plates at a comparatively small expense, and these would be permanently available for the production of future editions." We read how Dr. Moon used to relate to his home circle the difficulties he met with while experimenting with a candle during many a night after the members of his family had gone to bed. He conducted these experiments alone, and he used to tell how, in his blindness, being guided only by the sense of touch, he at times burned his fingers. At length his experiments were crowned with success, and he perfected his system of stereotyping the plates for embossing. The system spread abroad, and soon the Moon type for the blind was known in most foreign countries. In 1843, Dr. Moon married Miss Mary Anne Caudle: there were two children—a son, who became a physician and went to live in America, and a daughter who was her father's life-long companion and fellow worker. At his death she ably carried on his work according to his wish.

Dr. Moon led a most active life: he travelled much in foreign lands and was elected Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and Fellow of the Society of Arts. In recognition of his life-long work for the blind the honorary degree of LL.D. was bestowed on him by the American University of Philadelphia. He was also made an honorary member of the Société Internationale pour l'Amélioration du Sort des Aveugles, founded by Le Congrès de Paris, 1878.

The production of books in the Moon type goes on apace, and has been supplemented by two periodicals, consisting of a monthly magazine and a weekly newspaper, which are greatly appreciated. For many years the Moon Society for embossing literature for the blind in Moon type has existed at 104, Queen's Road, Brighton. In 1914, on the death of Miss Adelaide Moon, the Society became a part of the National Institute for the Blind.

This brief sketch is intended as an incentive to those who care to read the fascinating story of Dr. Moon and his work for the blind. There are two books, one by John Rutherford, published by Hodder & Stoughton, called "William Moon and his Work for the Blind;" and Dr. Moon's own book, "Light for the Blind," a history of the origin and

success of Moon's system of reading which has been embossed in various languages.

Dr. Moon stands as an example of what he himself once wrote: "Numerous instances, both in ancient and modern times, might be adduced in support of the fact that great mental vigour and ability are not unfrequently associated with blindness." A short time before his death he remarked to a visitor who had called on him in Brighton: "It has been for me a long night, but a bright day. God has been pleased to give me the talent of blindness, and I have tried to do my best to use it."

E. G.

"MY HANDICAP"

CAPTAIN IAN FRASER, M.P., has contributed an interesting addition to a series of articles which appeared in the *Daily Express* entitled "My handicap, and how I overcame it." Speaking of the often-repeated phrases, "The blind have a wonderful sense of touch," or "a marvellous sense of hearing," he asserts that they are untrue: what occurs, he says, is that the senses that are left are more used, and the indications which they afford to the imagination are interpreted in greater detail. A faculty of deducing quite obvious but unexpected things from sounds is developed up to a very large extent, every dependence upon sight is obviated. As an example: if a blind man is seen to light his pipe without apparent difficulty, it is certain that he has used his ears to determine whether or not his match struck properly, and his taste to tell when the flame was charring his tobacco. Every man who smokes a pipe can and probably does hear his match strike and taste the first puff of smoke, but he ignores these indications, relying on his sight to tell him that all is well. There is one compensation whch is common to all human difficulties, namely that those difficulties develop enormously the character of those who successfully battle with them. Captain Fraser then goes on to speak of his adoption of what he calls "Arthur Pearson's philosophy of life." Arthur Pearson said in effect: "Forget the things you cannot do, and concentrate on the things you can do." This maxim has been taken to heart by the author of the article whose successful career is well known.

NOTHING is there more friendly to a man than a friend in need.—*Plautus*.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

BRAILLE WRITING COMPETITION.

THE "Arthur Pearson Memorial" Braille Writing Competition will be held by the Library in January. It is open to children under 16 years of age. The test will consist of the transcription of an extract from Grade I into Grade II. Braille.

Marks will be given for:—

1. Knowledge of Braille rules and contractions.
2. Workmanship: including arrangement, clearly-made dots, and freedom from erasure.
3. Accuracy.

Owing to the need of limiting the entrances, schools are invited to hold a preliminary contest, and to send in the work of their two best Braillists under the age of 16.

Those wishing to compete who do not attend a school should apply as soon as possible to the Secretary.

All names of candidates must be received at the Library before January 20th. The Test papers will be sent out as soon as possible after that date, and should be returned with a transcript one week after receipt.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY has conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy upon Mr. J. M. Ritchie, M.A., F.C.T.B. The original work which gained him this distinction was a thesis upon "The History of the Education of the Blind." This is the first time, we believe, that a treatise on a like subject has been rewarded by a University degree, and we congratulate Mr. Ritchie upon the distinction conferred upon him.

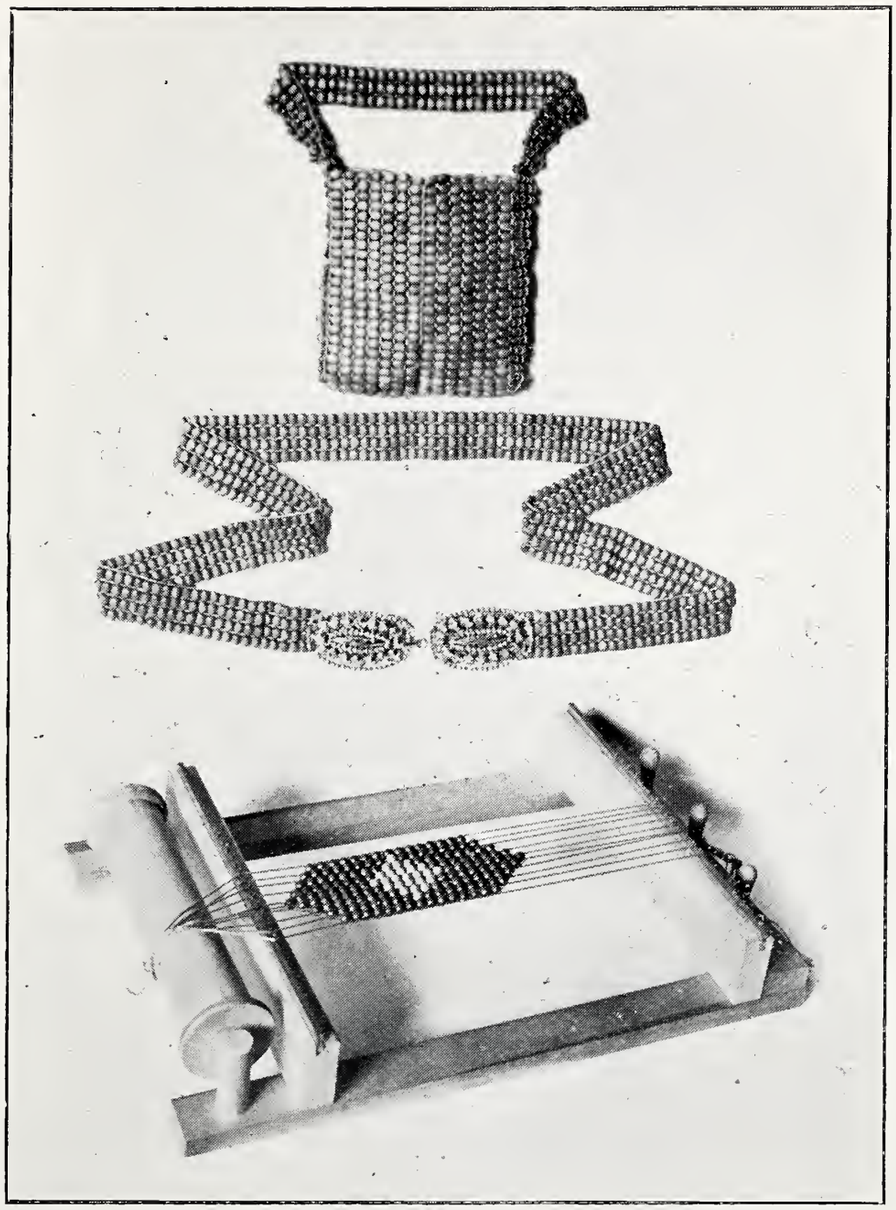
AN entertaining evening was spent at the Worcester College for Blind Boys on Nov. 9th, when the students performed two one-act comedies. Both plays were enthusiastically received, and great credit is due to Mrs. Brown who coached the players. Mr. Fred Riley filled in the gaps before and between the plays by an entertainment at the piano.

SERVE and thou shalt be served. If you love and serve men, you cannot, by any hiding or stratagem, escape the remuneration.

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

BEAD LOOM WORK

IN a previous article the writer offered some suggestions for the use of beads in necklets and other novelties, and also touched briefly on the use of the bead loom. It is proposed now to go more fully into the possibilities of the latter, and show how it can be adapted and used with success by the sightless. First of all, it will be as well to give a general idea of the method. A set of threads, spaced out so that a bead just fits between each two, is stretched from end to end of the loom. Sufficient beads for one row are threaded on to a long thin needle which has been previously threaded with stout linen thread; the needle with the beads upon it is placed under the warp threads and the beads pressed up into position, a bead between each two threads. The needle is now drawn through and then passed back through the whole row of beads, but this time above the warp threads; successive rows are worked in the same way. The weaving is best done in fairly narrow strips, as these can easily be sewn together later to form wider pieces.



BEAD LOOM WITH HAT ORNAMENT; LADY'S BELT; BAG FOR PRAYER BOOK.

THE LOOM.—The most common type is that which has a roller at one end and three holes with pegs at the other, with two notched bridges between, over which the warp threads pass. A representative specimen is sold at 2s. 9d. by Messrs. Cox & Co., New Oxford Street, W.1., who also supply the special needles. This type of loom appears to be designed mainly for fine work with very tiny beads, but as this work is not very suitable for us, and, moreover, is not as serviceable or even artistic as work with larger beads, it is suggested that the bridges which are removable, have small round-headed nails driven into their lower edges, spaced so that there are about six to the inch, which will give correct spacing for beads of about $\frac{3}{16}$ in. diameter. The bridges are replaced in their grooves upside down.

THE BEADS.—Wooden beads of about the right size can usually be obtained locally; but, if it is proposed to make a number of articles, it is more economical to procure them from a firm such as Messrs. Darnley's, Ltd., 18, Princes Street, Oxford Circus, W.1., who supply wooden beads of suitable size and in all

shades at 3s. 6d. per thousand. Glass beads, which are cheaper, can be used in necklets, but are usually too large for bags and purses. Beads of other shapes, such as cube, oval, and tubular, can be used in all classes of work. Mercerised cotton is a good material for the warp threads.

A Bead Necklet.—This being fairly simple will provide a good first exercise. Either wooden or glass beads can be used, provided the latter are not too large. First cut six threads for the warp, each about fifty inches in length, tie the ends together and fix to one of the nails in roller. Now carry the threads over the two bridges, spacing them out between the nails, pass them into one of the holes at other end of loom, press in the peg and wind surplus warp round end of the loom. The loom is now placed with roller end farthest from the worker and the work begun at that end. Having threaded the needle, tie the end of the thread to the left-hand warp thread and pass five beads on to the needle. Press these up into position, draw the needle through, return it above the beads, and repeat until about thirty rows have been worked. When the weaving reaches the front of the loom it is necessary to wind the finished work on to the roller, which is prevented from turning back by the insertion of a nail or peg in one of the holes at its end. When the thirty rows have been completed a section of threaded work may be introduced, say thirty beads being threaded on to each pair of warp threads so as to give three strings side by side. The weaving is then resumed, to be followed by another threaded section and so on till the necklet is long enough. Make the last section a threaded one and finish by tying the ends of the warp threads securely together.

A Hat Ornament.—This is oblong with pointed ends, and is made with red, mauve, and silver beads—142 red, 12 mauve, and 13 silver—but, of course, designs for hat ornaments can be varied almost indefinitely. Ten warps threaded will be required of a length just sufficient to enable them to be fastened securely to the loom. Begin with one red bead in the centre, then three, then five, then seven, and then a full row of nine. Follow with three more complete rows of red, and in the next row have one silver in centre. Next: 3 red, 1 silver, 1 mauve, 1 silver, 3 red; next: 2 red, 1 silver, 3 mauve, 1 silver, 2 red; next: 1 red, 1 silver, 2 mauve, 1 silver, 2 mauve, 1 silver, 1 red; next: 2 red, 1 silver, 3 mauve, 1 silver, 2 red; next: 3 red, 1 silver, 1 mauve, 1 silver, 3 red; next: 4 red, 1 silver, 4 red. The foregoing forms a diamond in the centre of the ornament, and the piece is completed by working four more rows of red and then narrowing off to correspond with the other end. The ordinary method of finishing off woven bead work is to thread each warp thread in turn on to a needle, and, after stitching between two beads, pass the needle through all the beads to the end of the row. The following is suggested as being simpler and equally neat and strong: Having removed work from loom, take the end warp thread along the first bead to second thread and twist the two together; take this twist along to the next thread and twist the three together, and so on, tying the twist to the last thread to finish. Now, with the needle and thread used in the weaving, stitch round between the first two beads, pass needle through second bead, round between second and third, and so on to the end.

Lady's Belt.—This has four beads in a row and about ninety rows, but the length will naturally vary. In one colour it is quite a simple, straightforward piece of work, although a more interesting effect will be obtained if two or more colours are used and the beads worked to form a pattern. After being finished off, the two ends are sewn to the two halves of a ready-made buckle.

Bag for Prayer Book.—The main part consists of two strips of fifty rows each, with seven beads in a row, these being finished off and sewn together side by side. The strip for ends of bag and handle has 100 rows with three in a row. The joined strips are folded in half, and the long strip sewn in to form ends of bag and handle. A. G. K.

A BLIND MAN'S OPERA

THE new opera, "Penelope," which was broadcast recently, is the work of a blind man, Mr. Herbert Ferrers. It was when he heard his first opera, "Tannhäuser," as a boy in Liverpool, that he decided to become a composer, and twenty years later he conducted the opera which had had such an effect upon him in the very theatre where he first heard it. Later he became musical director of the Carl Rosa Opera Company, and he lost his sight in 1922. Two years ago he regained slight vision in one eye. Though practically blind, he did not give up his music nor his compositions. He thought out his compositions, committed them to memory, and then dictated the scoring.

THE BLIND IN MONTREAL



E have been much interested in an account of the excellent work carried on at the Montreal Association for the Blind, contained in a recent number of *The Montreal Daily Star*.

Lord Willington, the Governor-General, was present at the formal opening of a new wing of the Home for Blind People in Sherbrooke Street, when he congratulated the citizens of Montreal who, he said, "seemed never to weary in doing generous deeds which will make life happier for the under-privileged and handicapped."

In the address of welcome, Mr. Philip E. Layton, the president of the institution, alluded to it as the parent institution of work for the adult blind in Canada. He said: "This institution was the first in the Dominion to deal with the problem of training blind men and women in professions and trades whereby they would become useful and self-supporting citizens. The Grey Nuns first brought light and comfort to the blind by founding a school, seventy years ago, in Montreal, known as the Nazareth Institution for the French Blind, from which several famous musicians have graduated. . . . There are probably 8,000 to 9,000 blind people in the Dominion. . . . Blind persons have been admitted to our school and workshops from nearly every province in the Dominion. It was here that the Canadian Federation for the Blind was established in June, 1926, which has to-day nine branches scattered all over the Dominion. This institution is the headquarters of the Canadian Federation for the Blind. A monthly magazine is published in this institution and sent free to all known blind persons throughout Canada."

It is also of interest to quote the following brief history of the Montreal Association, which Mr. Heggie, principal of the school for the blind, read from a Braille manuscript. "Realising the pressing need of education and employment for the blind, Mr. P. E. Layton sent out a circular letter to all blind persons known to him, inviting them to a meeting to be held at his residence on April 22nd, 1908, for the purpose of forming an Association to promote the interests of the English-speaking blind in the province of Quebec. About fifteen blind men attended the meeting, and a resolution was moved by Dr. A. Fisher establishing the Montreal Association for the Blind, with a view to starting at once work for the blind. A small workshop for the manufacture of brooms was opened on Notre Dame Street, West, on December 1st, 1908, four blind men being admitted for training. This was the pioneer workshop for the blind in Canada. The following year the Montreal Association for the Blind helped to organise the Ottawa Association for the Blind. The Board of Management decided that an effort should be made to raise 100,000 dollars to purchase land and to erect a school building. The first 10,000 dollars were subscribed by Miss Jessie Dow and the late Miss Mary Dow, and the last subscription of 10,000 dollars was given by the late Lord Strathcona. Sir William Macdonald and David Hodgson contributed many thousand dollars. A tag day and a bazaar in 1911 netted 35,000 dollars. The balance of the objective was collected by the honorary treasurer, Mr. P. E. Layton. Eight and a half acres of land were purchased in Notre Dame de Grace for 30,000 dollars, and a school building erected thereon which was officially opened by the Premier of Quebec in October, 1913. In 1914 it became necessary to provide greater workshop accommodation, and a modern fire-proof factory and boarding home for employees were built. In 1924 it was decided to enlarge the building to double its former accommodation. Light and well-ventilated workshops, locker, rest and lunch rooms were all included in the plans. The entire cost of the extension and installation of central-heating system amounted to 40,000 dollars. The workshop report for the year ending June 30th, 1927, showed that 44 blind men had been employed during that period. The departments embraced broom, brush, mop and whisk making. The sales for the year amounted to nearly 60,000 dollars. Since the inception of the Montreal Association for the Blind nearly 20 years ago, the lives of many thousands of blind people in the province of Quebec and throughout the Dominion have been benefited."



It is a true saying that a man must eat a peck of salt with his friend before he knows him.—*Cervantes*.

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

	BELLES LETTRES—		
7502-7505	"Light Articles Only," by A. P. Herbert (4 Series)	per Series	2 9
7457-7458	"Utopia," by Sir Thomas Moore 2 vols.	per vol.	9 0
	EDUCATIONAL—		
7519-7520	"Fabulae Heroicae," by Eleanor Purdie, Ph.D. (2 Sections)	per Section	6 0
7567-7568	"French Unseens" (Junior Course), by A. R. Florian, M.A., 2 vols.	per vol.	4 3
7569-7570	"French Unseens" (Senior Course), by A. R. Florian, M.A., 2 vols.	per vol.	6 0
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7581	"The Venetian Glass Nephew," by Elinor Wylie		9 9
7576-7580	"The Way of all Flesh," by Samuel Butler, 5 vols.	per vol.	8 9
	JUVENILE—		
7571	"A Little Boy Lost," by W. H. Hudson		9 9
	MISCELLANEOUS—		
	Almanack for 1928		2 6
	Braille Calendar for 1928		0 6
	RELIGIOUS—		
8120	Scripture Union Portions for 1928		0 9

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
LIST OF ADDITIONS
December, 1927.

FICTION.	*Vols.*
Austen, Jane. Lady Susan and the Watsons	2
Bridges, V. Cruise of the *Scandal* and other stories	4
Cunningham, H. S. Chronicles of Dustypore	4
Deeping, W. Doomsday	6
Dell, E. M. Lamp in the Desert	6
Farnol, J. Our Admirable Betty	6
Forrest, N. Ways of Escape	7
Freeman, R. Austin. Red Thumb Mark	4
Henderson, B. and C. Calvert. Wonder Tales of Alsace-Lorraine	3
Hine, Muriel. Reluctant Impostor	4
Holland, B. T. Vagrant Tune	3
Kaye-Smith, S. Tamarisk Town	6
Lofting, H. Dr. Dolittle's Zoo	3
Montgomery, L. M. Kilmeny of the Orchard	2
Orczy, Baroness. Pimpernel and Rosemary	5
Oxenham, J. Carette of Sark	4
Pemberton, Max. Captain Black	4
Phillpotts, Eden. Red Redmaynes	5
Pireau, M. God's Troubadour (St. Francis of Assisi)	4
Rhodes, Kathleen. Mirage of the Dawn	4
Saunders, Mrs. B. Distaff Dreamers	4
*Stawell, R. My Days with the Fairies	1
Young, E. F. William	5
Warner, S. T. Lolly Willowes	3

MISCELLANEOUS.	
Duffy, T. A. Price of Dawning Day (Indian Missions)	2
Gore, Bishop. Leo the Great (Leo I. Pope 441-461)	2

MISCELLANEOUS—*Cont.*	*Vols.*
*Huddleston, S. France and the French	4
Jowett, J. H. Thirsting for the Springs (26 week-night meditations)	2
†McGovern, W. M. To Lhasa in Disguise	4
Masefield, J. Salt-water Ballads	2
†Masters, D. Wonders of Salvage	2
*C. Casey, S. Juno and the Paycock; a play	1
Oldham, J. H. Christianity and the Race Problem	5
Power, Rhoda. Age of Discovery; from Marco Polo to Henry Hudson	2
Tom Moore's Diary. Selections, edited by J. B. Priestley	3
Trevelyan, G. M. History of England (in continuation)	1-10
†Weigall, A. Life and Times of Cleopatra	4
World Call to the Churches. Call from our People Overseas	3
Younghusband, Sir F. E. Epic of Mount Everest, 1921-1924	4

GRADE III.	
Smillie, R. My Life for Labour. With foreword by G. Ramsay Macdonald	3

*Presented by the National Institute for the Blind.
†Presented by the American Braille Press.

The Northern Counties Association for the Blind would be glad to receive the names of any persons, in any part of the country, qualified or qualifying as **Home Teachers** but at present not employed in this service. Particulars should be sent to Mrs. Brooks, Secretary, 70A, Market Street, Manchester.

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the December Numbers)

Progress.—To our Readers—Once upon a Time—"Shall I to the Byre go down!" (poem)—Charles Dickens—Schoolboy Howlers—Christmas Crossword Puzzle—Christmas Nuts to Crack—Matters of the Moment—Corespondence—Our Prize Competition—Obituary: Karin Thilander—Two Hundred Years Ago—The First Editor of "Progress"—Advertisements—Esperanto and its use to the Blind—Christmas Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page—Home Occupations: Knitted Muff, Tam o'Shanter and Bedroom Slippers—"Inasmuch" (A Christmas Story)—Dining the Chief. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—Old Travel and New—Life on other Worlds?—Landor—The Lawrence Legend—The Greville Diary—Bird Books—Here comes an old Sailor—Woad—The Art of Repartee—Supplements—Announcements—The Administration of Relief and Pensions. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—The Members' Congress (*concluded*)—The Treatment of Rheumatism—Professor A. M. Low's Sun-soaked Clothing—Dr. Mennell on "Tennis Leg"—Stimulative Radiation of the Skin with Vapour Lamp—Inset: Reviews—Treatment of Workmen's Compensation Cases—Stimulative Radiation of the Skin (*concluded*)—Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—The Red-Haired General who won Canada—The Asphalt Lake of Trinidad—Scouting Undersea—Suction in Industry—The Otter and the Pine Marten—The Why and the Wherefore—Prize Competitions—Told in Playtime—Why Lions have Manes—Supplements—Comrades—Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Scriabin and the Pianoforte Teacher—How to Publish—Correspondence—Notes and News Concerning the Blind—Tuners' Column—The "Little Organ-book of Bach"—New Organist at Westminster Abbey—The Christmas Classics—Origin of the Swedish National Anthem—Supplements. Braille Music Reviews—English Hymnal Words—Announcements—Administration of Relief and Pensions in England and Wales—Inset: Organ: "A Ground (Evening Hymn) by Purcell—"Seguidillas" by Albeniz. (Subscription: Inland and abroad; 8s. 6d. post free.)

Moon Magazine—Good Wishes to our Readers—"Shall I to the Byre go down"?—A Christmas Fantasy, by Anne Cave—The Snow Queen, by Lilian Garbutt—Somebody Said—Christmas Crackers—Three Christmases a Year—Holly Berry Beliefs—"A Song of Gratitude"—Reading Competition. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 9s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Humidity—Favourite Quotations—News Items—The Poet's Corner—On the State of the Public Health—The Year 1920, and after—Stageland—Legal Notes—Advertisements and General Notices—Famous Dunces. Supplements. Literary: John Ruskin—Music: Dvoràk, the famous Peasant-Musician; Piano, Noël, by Balfour Gardiner. Announcements—The Administration of Relief of Pensions in England and Wales. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

The Light Bringer.—From the Braille Room—Verses for Chain of Union—New Books in Library—New Pamphlets—Supplement with Issue—Thought-Power—Chapter VII.—Concentration—Dr. Annie Besant: Some appreciations—The Kingdom of Happiness, by J. Krishnamurti—The Glamour-land, by Michael Wood—Theosophy in Politics and Industry—Three Lessons. Supplement: Foreword by the Editor of the "Light Bringer"—Order of the Star: Information for Inquirers—Who Brings the Truth?—The Star Camp, 1927—The Invocation.

Santa Lucia.—A Tiger at a Wedding—Where old maids are unknown—Woman Spy honoured—An enthusiast among the birds—How finger-print experts work—Great Conqueror's Tomb found—Gabriel Samara (Book II., Chapters 10 and 11)—Thought for the month—The way of a Spider—World's Oldest King.

Channels of Blessing.—Eternal Life—He is thy Life—Notes on Hebrews—Trust in Him at all Times—Our Letter from India—The Story of Madam Yasnovsky—On Another's Sorrow—The Class Leader's Last Message—Bartimaeus—A Sinner Forgiven—Prayer Union—Gleanings—Inset: "Channels of Blessing." Supplement: The First Missionary Journey; The Lesson Illustrated. (6½d. per copy, post free, inland and abroad.)

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Resumé of Programmes Broadcast from all Stations of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

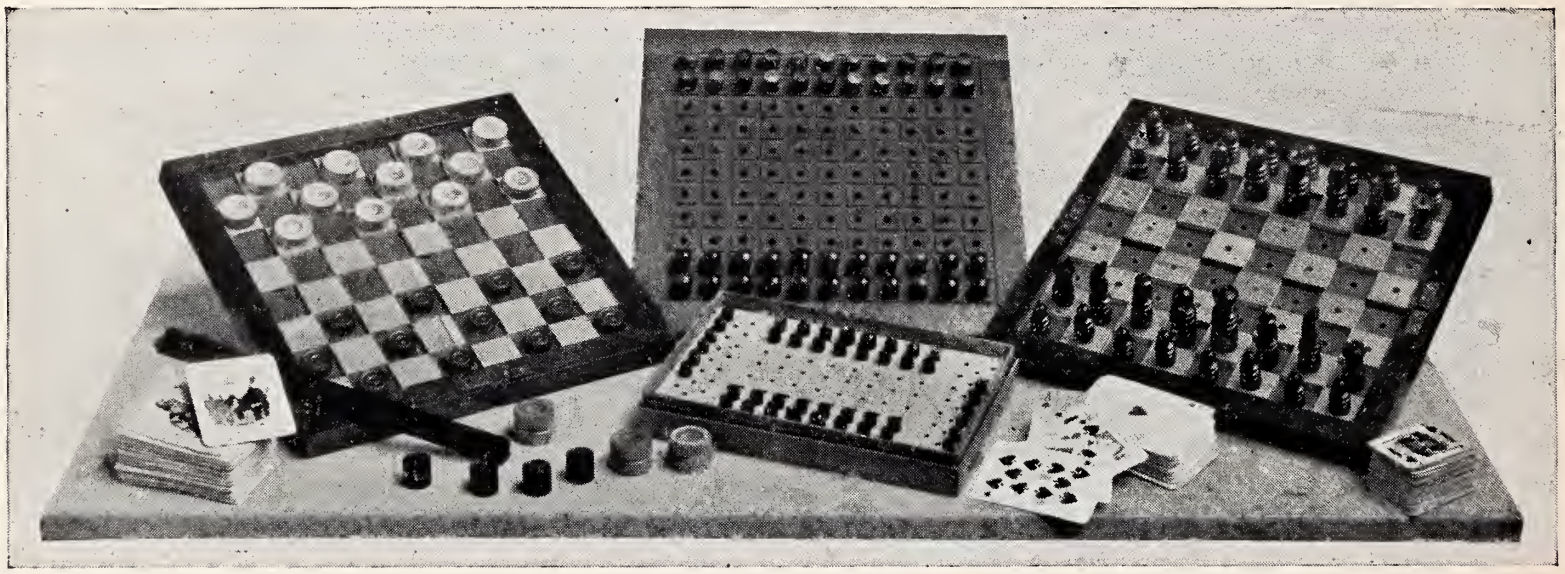
Lady Home Teacher and Visitor (Sighted). Salary £130-£156, according to qualifications. Applications, giving full particulars and copies of testimonials, to be addressed to Manager, Stoke-on-Trent, and N.S. Committee for the care of the Blind, Victoria Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

Home Teacher, female, required, with experience in the work and who has obtained the Home Teachers' Certificate preferred. Salary £3 per week. Apply with two recent testimonials stating qualifications, etc., to Superintendent, Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham.

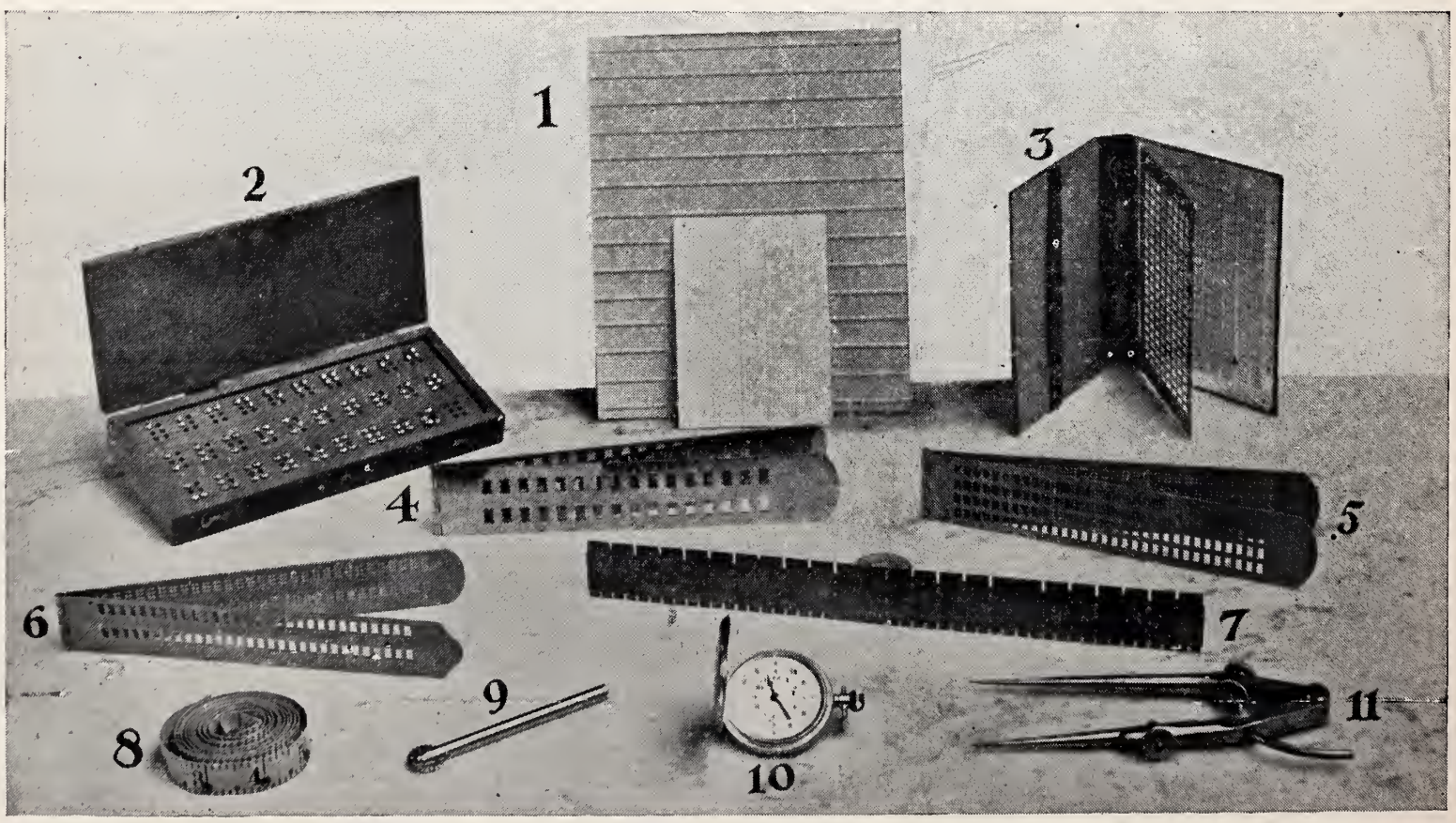
Tuning Master required for 1st April, 1928, for Technical Training Department. Must have good qualifications and preferably one with some teaching experience. Good salary. Apply by January 20th to Secretary, Blind Institution, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1928

FEBRUARY Vol. XII No. 134

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	ORGAN—		
8212	" Carillons de Dunkerque " (Theme with Variations), by T. Carter (arr. by E. H. Turpin) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8213	" Maestoso con moto " and " Allegro," First Movement from the " Hymn of Praise," by Mendelssohn (arr. by Cruickshank) (Bar by bar), pocket size	3	4
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8215	Introduction and Toccata in G, by W. Walond (arr. by H. Wall) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
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8216	Two Characteristic Pieces : 1—" The Old Castle " ; 2—" The Horseman," by Maughan Barnett (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
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8218	Sonata No 20 in G, Op. 49, No. 2, by Beethoven, Macpherson's Edition, bar by bar	2	0
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8226	" Russian Lullaby," Song-Waltz, by Irving Berlin (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
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8228	" One Summer Night," Song Fox-Trot, by L. Spier and S. Coslow (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8229	" Perhaps you'll think of me," Song-Waltz, by B. Stone (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8230	" A Youth," by Allitsen, Compass C to D′ sharp, pocket size	2	0
8231	" Of Flowers the Fairest," Soprano Solo from the " Peasant Cantata," by Bach, A, Compass E to A′, pocket size	2	0
8232	" At Dawning," by C. W. Cadman, G flat, Compass D to F′, pocket size	2	0
8233	" Mendin' Roadways," by Eric Coates, C, Compass C to E′, pocket size	2	0
8234	" The Shepherd's Song," by Elgar, E flat, Compass D to G′	2	0
8235	" The Ould Lad," by Hamilton Harty, D flat, Compass A to D′, pocket size	2	0
8236	" Oh ! Isis and Osiris, guide them," by Mozart, Bass Solo from " The Magic Flute," F, Compass F, to C′	2	0
8237	" The Dawn has a Song," by Montague Phillips, B flat, Compass C to F′, pocket size	2	0
8238	" Messmates," by H. D. Statham, C minor, Compass A, natural to C′ sharp	2	0
8239	Walther's Prize-Song, from " The Mastersingers," by Wagner, A, Compass B sharp to F′	2	0

MOON BOOKS

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			s.	d
2612-2619	" The Little Minister," by J. M. Barrie (limited edition), 8 vols.	per vol.	12	0

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7616-7618	" The Cloud Cuckoo Land," by Naomi Mitchison, Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 3 vols.	per vol.	8	9
7938-7840	" The Deductions of Colonel Gore," by Lynn Brook, Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 3 vols.	per vol.	8	6
7913-7915	" The Dynamiter," by Robert Louis Stevenson, Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Paper Covers, 3 vols.	per vol.	6	0

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XII.—NO. 134. FEBRUARY, 1928. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

AN ERA OF HOPE



DO you remember in the first chapter of "The War in the Air," by H. G. Wells, Bert Smallway's inimitable comment: "Well, this 'ere progress goes on, don't it?"

That was written before the War, yet the War seemed to give an impetus to progress rather than to retard it, and each day now seems to bring with the dawn a new invention, a glimpse of fresh scientific prospects, a suggestion of vast untouched fields awaiting human activity.

Perhaps it is this ever-present sense of movement that supplies the fascination of life to-day. We all have our likes and prejudices, our memories of things and thoughts of beauty lost for ever; and each of us may select a different moment in the world's history when the imagination would willingly choose to command a cessation of progress and nourish its content with the subtle charm of one golden day's infinite duration. But most of us will agree that man's goal must be reached not through human content, but through divine discontent. He must ever march breast-forward, although behind and around him fervid faiths become anæmic, loves are wrinkled with age, and the glory of Great Babylon falls beneath the desert's land. There are greater powers ahead, and greater dangers: mightier hopes, and mightier fears; even death has in its dust the seed of sublime surmise.

This infinite but indefinite hope in progress is sometimes very difficult to justify. Cold philosophies so often damp down the fires of a man's dream, and facts and figures so often give the lie to his faith, that it is almost with surprise that we find in history one or two streams of action which, widening to gulfs and seas, now, in our own time, justify hope and faith by their tranquil touch on all nations. One such is the stream of knowledge; another the stream of philanthropy.

No one can deny that mankind, as a whole, *knows* incomparably more now than, say, in the classic age of Greece; and no one can deny that the birth and growth of philanthropy practically coincide with the birth and growth of Christianity.

Doubtless Solomons still exist, wearily pondering on the vanity of vanities, that all is vanity, but the love of knowledge and the love of our neighbour are assuredly not vanities. The one is the eternal aspiration of the mind towards the highest, the other the eternal compassion of the heart towards the lowest—those who even from birth are buffetted by the world. We may safely affirm, therefore, that the hope of the ignorant and the hope of the helpless are hopes built on solid rock, for history has proved the surety of their foundations.

Knowledge and sympathy, to-day, are working together, as never before, for the benefit of the Blind. The Morning Star of the Blind arose nearly a century ago when Louis Braille perfected a means of enabling the Blind to read, and that the Star has steadily risen is exemplified by the present-day discovery and invention of the principles of wireless, a

means by which the Blind do not merely hear about the world, but mingle in its life.

As yet, we may not all discern the immense possibilities wireless affords to the Blind. But let the imagination wander, and you will see in this extension of the powers of hearing an even greater recompense for loss of sight than the extension, through Braille, of the powers of touch. We have five senses : if we extend the powers of any of them, we can surely dispense more easily with one. It has been said that, in the early age of the world's history, man had the instinct of direction, now almost entirely confined to savage races and wild beasts. It was then a necessity of nomad life. But when nations arose, peoples became static, and the instinct was lost as no longer necessary.

It is for the Blind to show—and they do now, to a great extent—that sight is not an essential to an active, useful and happy life, and never have they received such an impetus towards the right aspect as that which wireless is affording them to-day.

It can banish distance of time and space. It can bring into a blind man's room a never-ending panorama of what the world is, or what it was, and what it intends to be—something he has never "seen" before. It can partially banish the physical defect of blindness : a wireless blind actor, for instance—and why should not there be scores of them ?—will be paid not for the way he can posture on a stage, but for his voice, his diction, his understanding. The blind wireless singer or instrumentalist is not handicapped at all ; at the microphone, he does not see his audience and they do not see him. The blind orator, the blind lecturer, the blind preacher—all alike are, as far as a wireless audience is concerned, normal men with sight.

Are there not, in such directions, very great possibilities of achievement ?

In the future, no blind person will ever be without a wireless set. The spirit of philanthropy will see to that. Modern philanthropy is not sentimental ; it is practical, and, as we have often said in these pages, it is business-like sympathy which helps—not the pity which is generous with its tears, but scant with its pounds.

And where may wireless—with all that it means to the Blind—where may it lead to ?

The greatest scientists will be the first to assert that there are continents and oceans of scientific knowledge awaiting discovery, and sure it is that as Columbus was spurred on towards the unknown Indies by the fragrant land breezes that blew, and the broken boughs that floated by his ships, so is the modern scientist spurred on in his search for knowledge by every new star that is revealed for the future and every malignant germ that is buried in the past.

For the Blind, this is the Era of Hope.

THE EDITOR.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND

IN view of the continued development in the work among the blind owing to the operation of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, and the new problems constantly arising in connection with this service, the Minister of Health has re-appointed the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind for a further period of office. The Committee has been constituted so as to afford representation to the Local Authorities concerned with the working of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, and to Voluntary Agencies for the Blind, as well as to organised blind workers. The following have been appointed members of the Committee :—

Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts, P.C., J.P. (*Chairman*) ; P. M. Evans, Esq., LL.D. (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Alderman F. Askew ; J. J. Burton, Esq., J.P. ; J. J. Butterworth, Esq., M.D., D.P.H. ; Councillor J. A. Clydesdale ; Sir Coles Child, Bart. ; Herbert Davey, Esq., M.B.E. ; W. H. Eastman, Esq. ; James Graham, Esq., Ph.D. ; Thomas Holt, Esq. ; Miss L. King ; Alderman J. P. Kirkman, J.P. ; Arthur L. Lowe, Esq., C.B.E. ; Robert A. Lyster, Esq., M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H. ; G. F. Mowatt, Esq., J.P. ; H. A. Powell, Esq., M.D. ; Rev. P. S. G. Propert ; Ben Purse, Esq. ; J. M. Ritchie, Esq., Ph.D. ; Dr. Adeline M. Roberts, O.B.E., J.P. ; W. H. Tate, Esq., J.P.

The Committee will advise the Minister on matters relating to the care and supervision of the blind, including any question that may be specially referred to them by the Minister. Mr. F. M. Chapman, of the Ministry of Health, will act as Secretary.

CHRISTMAS AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE'S HOMES



S usual, Christmas at the Sunshine Homes was celebrated in a truly festive way. At Chorley Wood the babies woke on Christmas Day to find that Father Christmas had been there in the night and filled their stockings full to overflowing with teddy-bears, dolls, engines, sweets, oranges—in fact, all the things they most love. All their different treasures were described to them, and very soon the nurseries were ringing with merry laughter.

The babies came to breakfast dressed in their prettiest clothes, and afterwards there were more toys and music and games. They greatly enjoyed their Christmas dinner, especially the crackers, and the dining-room was decorated in dainty shades of lilac, mauve and pink. After dinner came more games, Musical Chairs, Ring-o'-Roses, nuts-in-may, while the older ones played Hide-and-Seek, which was enjoyed to the full. It had been whispered that Father Christmas might be coming again, and that somewhere there was a beautiful tree decorated with gold and silver, with a queen of the fairies at the top, who had told Father Christmas what each child specially wished for. So there was great excitement when they were all told to go into the school-room after tea. Sure enough, bells were heard tinkling in the distance, which grew louder and louder until someone called out, "Hullo, children!" and Father Christmas strode in. He gave each child beautiful presents, just the right thing for everybody, whilst other gifts were shared between them all. When he had gone, and it was bed-time, all the babies went to bed quite happily, thinking of all the treasures they would have to play with on the following day.

* * *

AT Southport preparations were made many days before. The babies' talk was about Father Christmas and secrets, and their little voices could be heard singing carols. They were very busy helping to decorate the rooms in the Home—even Gyp, the puppy, and Pam, the kitten, were adorned with ribbons in celebration of the great day of the year. When the babies went to bed on Christmas Eve, there was no need to tell them to hurry up—socks were hung up, and soon they were all fast asleep. Christmas morning started very early—amid great excitement, stockings were opened, crackers pulled, and toys admired and played with. After breakfast, the babies adjourned to the play-room where they celebrated the birthday of the Baby Jesus with prayers and carols and games with dollies and various other toys. Christmas dinner followed at mid-day, consisting of chicken, vegetables, and afterwards the babies' special pudding decorated with holly. There was much excitement when the crackers were pulled, and the babies marched out to rest wearing paper hats and caps, and blowing trumpets. During the afternoon, the Mayor and Mayoress of Southport, together with members of the Committee and other friends, visited the Home, and the Mayoress distributed the presents from the Christmas Tree. Everybody was delighted with both Home and babies. The children sang their Christmas carols and gave three cheers for everybody. There followed more games, and then tea with an iced Christmas cake decorated with snow-men and holly; then crackers once more, which always give much joy to the children. Many beautiful toys and gifts of fruit, cake, biscuits and sweets were received at the Home, and good wishes from many kind friends.

They were weary little feet that climbed the "wooden hill" that night, but the little hearts were full of joy and happy thoughts of the morrow which would bring them another festive day.

* * *

THE Leamington Sunshine babies spent a happy Christmas. The singing of carols was heard for many days before the 25th of December, and also animated discussions concerning the things that Father Christmas had been requested to bring. Six of the older babies were invited to a Christmas Tree Party early in December, and great was the envy of those who had to be left behind. The Kindergarten breaking-up day came at last, and all the babies who could walk marched around the house singing carols at the top of their sweet little voices. On Christmas Eve, every baby old enough to understand was most excited. They hung their

socks on their cots, and were much too wide awake to settle down ; every now and then a little figure would pop from under the clothes to find out if Father Christmas had been. It was early in the morning when the first baby wakened, and very soon the night nurseries were full of happy voices and various musical sounds. Then came breakfast, followed by games and the appearance of Father Christmas, who presented everybody with a bag of sweets. With him came a number of visitors, with fruit, cake, sweets and crackers. Christmas dinner was greatly enjoyed, and there was a special Christmas Pudding for the older babies. After the mid-day rest came games, and then the Christmas Tree was stripped of all its treasures. At tea there was a large cake with a " Father Christmas " and other decorations, given by Doctor Wardrop, and after tea more crackers and games until bed-time, when a tired but happy family wended their way to bed. Soon every baby was fast asleep, clasping various treasures to its breast, and another Christmas was over.

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A HAPPY time was spent at the Clifton Home, where the good cheer and Christmas gifts were greatly enjoyed. Amongst other timely gifts were those of a turkey and goose.

* * *

CHRISTMAS at Hoole Bank, Chester, was spent in a happy and contented way. The customary turkey and plum pudding were greatly enjoyed by the guests, and there was other good cheer, thanks to the many kind friends who sent all manner of gifts. The Matron wrote : " We had a very happy Christmas ; everyone was smiles. In the early morning some of the guests came outside my room and sang carols—their old voices sounded so sweet."

* * *

THE inmates at the Brighton Home for Blind Women spent Christmas in a very happy manner. Numerous gifts both in money and in kind were received from friends far and near, and each resident had at least five presents on her plate at breakfast. As Christmas fell on Sunday, there was no dance that night, but on January 11th there was some jolly dancing, and the room was gay with air balloons and the sound of musical instruments and squeakers. On December 28th, there was a Christmas Tree and a concert, and there were two parties for tea and dancing at the Regent Dance Hall, the guests being fetched and brought back in cars. Altogether, a very festive time was spent.

* * *

A VERY happy Christmas was spent at the National Institute's Convalescent Home, at Quarry Hill, St. Leonard's. The festivities began with singing and dancing on Christmas Eve, and there was carol singing the next morning which was repeated in the afternoon. A fine Christmas dinner was served on the 26th. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Matron, and the staff were also warmly cheered. In the afternoon, while a clever young musician of twelve was playing "Good King Wenceslas" in the lounge, the double doors opened and a beautiful Christmas Tree laden with gifts was seen, with Father Christmas in attendance. There were presents for everybody, followed by a Christmas supper. Music and dancing brought a happy day to an end.

DEAF-BLIND HELPERS' LEAGUE

IT is with pleasure that we call the attention of deaf-blind readers to this society which is in process of organisation. Its objects and aims are social in character ; it seeks to make the lives of the deaf-blind a little richer and brighter than they are at present. All deaf-blind people are invited to join the League as members, and when applying for membership to state their particular needs and tastes. It must be remembered that whilst the organisers will always endeavour to use their influence in obtaining needful help, they cannot undertake to provide work, the aims of the League being purely social and recreative. The League is non-sectarian and non-political. Suggestions are invited, and all those who are able and willing to do so are invited to send donations toward the necessary expenses. Braille letters should be sent to the President, Miss I. M. Brookfield, 10, Goldstone Road, Hove, Brighton, Sussex. Sighted letters to the Hon. Secretary, Charles W. Stuart, 58, Grange Road, West Bromwich. Donations to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Fraser, 6, Wellington Terrace, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham.

GUILD OF BLIND GARDENERS.—The designation of this Guild has been changed from " Guild of Blind Gardeners " to " Guild for Promotion of Gardening Amongst the Blind and Partially Blind (Myope)."

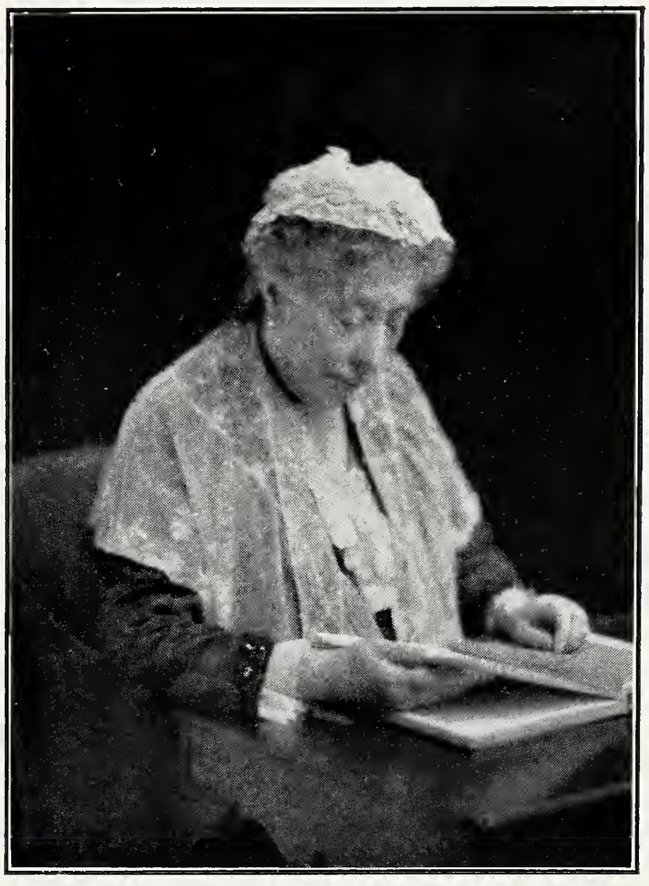
OBITUARY

GERTRUDE CAMPION

(The Hon. Mrs. Campion)

IT was with deep regret that we recorded in our last issue that the death had occurred, in her eighty-fourth year, of the Honourable Mrs. Campion, whose name we so closely associate with pioneer work for blind women and girls.

The second daughter of Henry, First Viscount Hampden, formerly Speaker of the House of Commons, the Hon. Gertrude Brand spent her youth at Speaker's House, London, and Glynde Place, Sussex. She was one of a large family of brothers and sisters, and was very fond of games and sports of all kinds, and a keen rider to hounds. In 1869 she married Colonel W. H. Campion, C.B., of Danny, Sussex, and, like her parents before her, she and her husband lived to celebrate their golden wedding. One of their sons, Colonel William Robert Campion, K.C., M. G., D. S. O., is Governor of Western Australia; another, the Reverend Frederick Henry Campion, was at one time Rector of West Grinstead. The youngest, Charles Campion, was killed in the South African War, and another son, Major Edward Campion, died after having been gassed in the late War. There are three daughters, Miss M. Campion, Mrs. C. Phillimore, and Mrs. Reynell-Pack.



THE HON. MRS. CAMPION

Throughout her life, Mrs. Campion devoted herself to the work of alleviating the sufferings of her own sex. She started a small home at Hurstpierpoint, where workhouse girls were trained with a view to domestic service for emigration, and she was intimately associated with a convalescent home at the same place called Sunshine Home. She founded the Mothers' Guild for members of the Church of England in Sussex, and was one of the earliest supporters of the Girls' Friendly Society, of which she became President and in which she maintained a life-long interest.

To her the Barclay Home for Blind and Partially Blind Girls at Brighton owes its foundation. It was the first place of its kind in which blind girls were trained to earn money by learning manual trades such as weaving, knitting or basket-making. The Report of the Barclay Home for 1895, gives the following interesting account of its foundation :—

"A blind scholar of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, who had to leave the College through failure of health, without completing her education, found, in 1888, a friendless blind girl in an East End workhouse, to which she had been returned after being three years at Southsea Blind School. The Poor Law Guardians would have allowed a small sum for her maintenance if a suitable home could have been found for her, but no such home existed, and the poor girl died at the age of eighteen, not from disease, but from real lack of motive or interest in life. Her friend, the blind scholar from the College, though with most limited means of her own, being very warm-hearted and benevolent, determined to use her best endeavours to found such a home even if it was but on a small scale. With great difficulty she did start a home at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, but, through want of experience, her efforts to carry it through were unsuccessful, and the home had to be closed. She, however, still persevered, and the Hon. Mrs. Campion, of Danny, Sussex, having become interested in the work,

came to her rescue and formed a Committee for so good a cause, and a most charitable friend, Mr. Alexander Charles Barclay, came to the front and gave the Committee £500 to start the home. Within a fortnight of his giving this sum, he died. The home was called the Barclay Home in his memory. It was opened in February, 1893."

The Home was originally intended for girls who had left, or were about to leave, schools for the blind, and were then much in need of instruction and training in housework as well as in some trade. They were of three classes :—

(1) Those who had received partial training in other homes for the Blind ;
(2) Those who were on the verge of blindness, and had to be prepared for the complete loss of vision ;
(3) Those coming from workhouses and parochial unions, these being the most numerous.

It was in consequence of knowledge gained by experience that the Committee were led to see that the industrial training of the older girls was dependent to a great measure on their earlier training, and that if really effective work were to be done, a start must be made with younger children. With this object in view a junior department was opened for girls between the ages of five and sixteen. The work grew and expanded, and workshops employing blind women and girls were opened at Norfolk House, Brighton, and in Crawford Street, Baker Street, London, where very beautiful work is turned out. Over the main entrance of the Home at Brighton there has been placed an inscription, which now bears the name of Campion House, with the family coat of arms, commemorating the fact that it was founded by Mrs. Campion in 1893.

It is noteworthy that what was doubtless the most important work of her life was accomplished when she was no longer young, for Mrs. Campion was fifty years of age when she founded the Barclay Institution. It must have been a source of intense gratification to the founder that she lived to know that over 170 blind people are employed in the Institutions at Brighton and London.

Possessed of a sound business sense and unbounded energy, her work was rendered all the more efficient by her ready sympathy and acute sense of humour. Mrs. Campion was an excellent speaker, a talent which she no doubt inherited from her father. It was her custom to give religious addresses to the blind girls during Lent, and she also read and talked to them while they were at work. She would invite them over to her lovely home at Danny Park—one of the Stately Homes of England, built in the time of Elizabeth, and visited by the late King Edward. Nor did her manifold public activities prevent her from carrying out with great efficiency the duties of a squire's wife and the mistress of a large country house. After the War, Mrs. Campion became a J.P. for Sussex

A useful and beautiful life has passed away, and we tender our sincere condolences to the children, grand-children and great-grand-children who mourn her loss.

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The funeral took place at Hurstpierpoint, on December 27th. The Barclay Home was represented by Major-General Sir Reginald Buckland, K.C., M.G., C.B., Chairman ; Miss A. Snowball, Lady Superintendent, and Miss Eide. The Barclay Workshops (London) representative, Mr. Henry J. Wagg, and the representative of the National Institute for the Blind, Mr. Godfrey Mowatt, were prevented from attending by the snow. A wreath was sent by the old girls of the Barclay Home, who are now resident at the National Institute for the Blind Home at St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

The Reverend HONYEL GOUGH ROSEDALE, M.A., D.D., F.S.A., F.R.S.L.

It is with profound regret that we announce the sudden death on Saturday, 14th January, of the Reverend Honyel Gough Rosedale, M.A., D.D., F.S.A., F.R.S.L., in his sixty-fifth year. Dr. Rosedale had had a stroke in February of last year, but so far recovered his health that he was able to carry on his rectorial duties at Copford, and he also frequently came up to his office at the London Association for the Blind. On the 14th of January he came to town in order to arrange a continental trip. He was taken ill in the train, and died shortly afterwards at the London Hospital.

His life may be said to have been devoted to " ministering " to the wants of others, in the true sense of that word. His high intelligence and practical commonsense enabled him to carry out his undertakings with the utmost efficiency. As a Rector he was greatly beloved. In his younger days he travelled much, was the author of historical, poetical and religious

works, and a keen collector of prints, china and old books. He was Past Master and Chaplain of the Horners' and Coachmakers' Companies, and Chaplain of the City of London National Guard.

Above all he was keenly interested in workshop developments, and initiated schemes under which the London Association for the Blind has developed into one of the largest employment agencies in the South of England. In so recent an issue of the BEACON as last October, we told the story of his work in building up this Association. When he became connected with the Workshops there were sixteen women working under unsatisfactory conditions, and it appeared as if the concern must come to an end. His timely intervention saved the situation, and after many vicissitudes there grew up a commercially sound movement for the manufacture of ladies' dresses. An important undertaking was his establishment of what is known as " The Ladder of Hope," a body of so-called unemployable people who are taught to work to the extent of their abilities, and on whom new life and hope have been bestowed. All Dr. Rosedale's work for the blind was given freely—without reward. His was a powerful personality. Those who worked for him speak of his unfailing kindness and knowledge of human nature. His loss to the Association is very great.

We tender our sincere sympathy to his wife and children in their bereavement.

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The funeral took place at Copford, on 19th January, the service being conducted by the Reverend Canon J. T. Steele, of Marks Tey, assisted by the Reverend R. H. O'Reilly, Rector of Stanway, and the Reverend F. G. Saint, Rector of Great Tey. Besides his widow and other relatives, the mourners included many blind people and representatives of the various Masonic Lodges and other organisations with which Dr. Rosedale was connected.

The London Association for the Blind was represented by Messrs. A. A. Gilligan, S. Hitchings, P. Bower, Hughes-Buller, C. Hindley, G. C. Haines, A. J. Sedgeley, and Captain Pollard, together with some twenty blind men and women. Representatives from other Blind Institutions included Mr. H. W. Hinchcliffe, for the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, and Mr. Ben Purse and Mr. H. C. Preece, for the National Institute for the Blind and the Greater London Fund for the Blind respectively.

A Memorial Service was held on the following day at St. Laurence Jewry Church, London.

Mr. HARRY NICKELS

We greatly regret to record the death of Mr. Harry Nickels, for many years Superintendent of the Cleveland and South Durham Institute for the Blind.

A teacher at the Wilberforce School for the Blind at York, he was appointed Superintendent of a branch of this school, which was opened at Middlesborough ; larger premises became necessary, and Mr. Nickels was greatly instrumental in securing the extension consisting of very up-to-date buildings in Stockton Road, which were opened some two years ago.

As a teacher of the blind, he was a true guide and helper. He trained the blind workers in the Institute with unfailing patience, and also took the greatest interest in those who worked in their own homes, doing everything to secure profitable sales for their products. Recently he patented a new brush, the bass fibres of which, instead of being fixed with tar in a wooden frame, are gripped together in a light steel frame. He offered the patent to the blind workshops throughout the country.

Mr. Nickels leaves a widow and one daughter, to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

Miss HENRIETTA MARY STODART

We record with deep regret the death, in her 88th year, of Miss Henrietta Mary Stodart, one of the oldest members of the Board of Managers of the Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum. Miss Stodart took a warm and practical interest in the welfare of blind people, both at Newington House, the Scottish St. Dunstan's, and West Craigmillar School for the Blind. One of her chief concerns was the education of the blind children at West Craigmillar School. Not only the Royal Blind Asylum, but the Hospital and Dispensary for Women and Children at Whitehouse Loan, the Elsie Inglis Memorial Maternity Hospital, and other Institutions in the city have, by her death, lost a generous supporter and friend.

FOR THE BLIND OF ABYSSINIA



ROM the Mission Field in Abyssinia comes interesting news concerning the growing work for the blind in that country. Assisted by apparatus made by the National Institute for the Blind, a blind Abyssinian at Addis Abeba, who has learned to read Braille, is imparting his knowledge to four of his fellow-countrymen. Until recently the blind of Abyssinia were, of necessity, professional beggars. Nowadays, when they learn to read, they become dependent upon the missionaries for their support. They can do a great deal of good by preaching the Gospel, for a blind Abyssinian who reads from a book at once commands the attention of a large audience.

A new problem has arisen. It has been felt for some time that these blind people should be taught to earn their own livelihood by means of suitable trades, *i.e.*, trades which they are capable of practising while, at the same time, supplying articles for which there is a ready demand among the natives. What is now needed is a local instructor to start operations in the West of Abyssinia, where American missionaries are stationed. This is a pioneer movement, and, therefore, fraught with the utmost interest.

If any worker for the blind, who is imbued with the true missionary spirit, will apply to the Secretary-General, National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, London, W.1, he will be glad to put him or her into touch with the Missionary Society, Addis Abeba, Abyssinia.

* * *

In connection with this subject, it is of interest to state that we have received a copy of the Braille Code for the languages of Abyssinia. This is, of course, based on the native characters, which are really syllables. In order to represent the nine vowel sounds of their languages, the Abyssinians use seven forms of each letter; the sixth form is used for three vowel sounds, by which means they prevent the "latinising" of their alphabet, as it requires a perfect knowledge of the language to know which vowel sound to give each time the form in question is used. The number of numerals is twice as many as those we employ, for each of the tens, also "one hundred" and "one thousand," are represented in the Abyssinian alphabet by a single sign. In writing the languages of Abyssinia a word may be divided at any point, even a word of two letters being divisible. For this reason there is a special sign of two dots to mark the end of a word, and another sign of four dots to mark the end of a sentence. These have been transferred into the Braille Code in order to protect it from the ultra-sensitiveness of the Abyssinians towards anything "foreign," and to disarm the opposition of an ignorant priesthood.

There are many tongues in Abyssinia, but the code can be used for all languages written in the Abyssinian script.

FOR THE BLIND BABIES

THE Annual Children's Party, in aid of the Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies, was held on January 5th, at the Hyde Park Hotel, over 700 people being present. Special features were a ball-room dancing competition for children under eighteen, and a beauty competition. All the guests had a very good time, and were entertained by the Lorch family of acrobats from the Lyceum Theatre, the famous Griffiths Brothers from the Circus of Olympia, and some dance scenas by the Cone School of Dancing.

MUSICAL SUCCESSES

FURTHER musical successes have been achieved by the students at the Swansea Institute for the Blind. Five of them sat for the recent examination of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music and each was successful, one gaining a distinction. We understand that among the entrants from the Swansea Institute, there has not been a single failure year after year. The music teacher, Miss Nellie Owen, L.R.A.M., is herself blind.

In last month's account of the Home Workers' Conference, at the National Institute for the Blind, Mr. S. W. Starling is reported to have stated that "a number of Institutions factored goods made by the sighted, which are purchased by the Blind." For the word *purchased* should be substituted *produced.*

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Continued)



ROM the statements already made it will be observed that two important considerations arise. The first point of material importance is that an assessment of disability would appear to be the most satisfactory way of dealing with a legitimate claim. It is at once realised that you cannot draw a strict parallel between the men who were disabled in the Great War and ordinary civilian blind persons, but it is at least conceivable that many of the people who have been bereft of vision sustained this disability as a result of the practising of their craft, and in such a way as to leave them with no claim under the ordinary compensation laws. Entirely apart, however, from that consideration, it is most reasonable and equitable to suggest that since this disability has been sustained by circumstances absolutely beyond the control of the individual, and since it is desirable that, as far as may be, those encountering such a handicap should be encouraged to live a useful life, the State can best discharge its obligations by making a judicious assessment of that handicap, and so compensate the individual as to leave him free, by his own unaided efforts, to win from industry or trade such outstanding balance of income as will yield to him, plus his State assistance, a reasonable standard of life.

There is no necessity here to labour this point further. In striking contrast, however, to other methods of remuneration, it does appear to me, after very careful examination of the various systems now obtaining, that the one by which assessment of disability may be made can most easily and logically be defended. Something has been said from time to time about the factors which are calculated to cause malingering, but, however true this may or may not be, the consideration remains that if a properly constituted authority determines the value of our disability, and leaves sufficient margin in its calculations for the upward tendencies of production, it can easily be ascertained whether the individual is attempting in any real sense to give of his best to the community, or is withholding such service as that of which he is deemed to be capable. In any case, however, it will be obvious that if there is a disposition in individual cases to register a lower standard of production than is reasonable, those adopting such a practice would be penalised because, under the system I am advocating, it is assumed that the assessment of disability will be such as to leave the individual free by his industry to contribute such balance as will provide a total amount, inclusive of disability grant and economic earnings, which will represent the average income of the normal man employed in the same industry.

This latter consideration leads me at once to the second point of outstanding importance in the analysis I am endeavouring to make of wage systems. Heretofore, there would appear to have been no real attempt to arrive at a system which is calculated to yield an equal standard of life for blind and sighted workers employed in the same industry. The proposals I make are designed to achieve this object, and in this connection one has to meet at once the objections which are likely to be encountered. I am aware that it is an inviolable condition held by certain people that whatever your methods of remuneration may be, so far as they are applicable to the members of the blind community, they must represent in the main a lower standard of subsistence than that which can be claimed by the normal man who is rendering economic service to the State.

In this connection one is forced to the conclusion, however distasteful it may be, that if the subject is approached on purely economic grounds, the contention unquestionably is difficult to refute, and I am not going to attempt, by a process of specious argument, to question the validity of such a sane proposition. It would be unfortunate, however, if all questions had to be viewed entirely from such a standpoint. The only justification one is entitled to advance in a matter of this kind is the basic contention that our handicap is not the result of circumstances over which we have any control. We have been permitted to live and grow up in the community entitled to certain statutory rights such as those expressed in our educational system; and if, through circumstances over which we have no control, it is discovered that our economic

worth is less than that of other men, then it is the business of the State, not merely scientifically to organise our labour with a view to securing the maximum amount of production, but also to seek for the development of our capacity in such avenues as will ultimately result in our requiring the minimum amount of assistance; for this purpose special facilities must be available.

It is held that our productive capacity is from 33 to 50 per cent. lower than that of the normal man employed in any industrial pursuit in which it is possible to engage the labour of the blind; but it should be pointed out that such a condition is only reflected because we have been unfortunate in the choice of occupations, for industries have been selected in which it is intensely difficult for the man in full possession of the whole of his faculties to win from such pursuits an adequate standard of life. It has been demonstrated over and over again by enterprising employers of labour, both in Germany, Austria, France and America, that, given a proper division and classification of labour, the productivity of the blind and other handicapped people is considerably higher than it is assessed in this country. One only need refer again to the observations of Mr. Henry Ford in this connection for positive proof of the contentions I am here urging. The liabilities of the State and the Local Authorities from the financial point of view, so far as the blind are concerned, are very much heavier than they ought to be, and are growing at an enormously accelerated speed simply because we have not attempted to deal with this problem along scientific lines. We have made practically no inquiry into the possibilities which industry and trade offer in respect of the employment of disabled people, and so long as we persist in adopting this conservative attitude of mind towards these important social problems, so long will it be necessary to exact large sums of money from the taxpayer for the maintenance of people, who, under a more enlightened *régime*, would derive a decent standard of life from the pursuit of an appropriate calling.

In my judgment the particular State department is far too much concerned with payments of grants and subsidies, and too little interested in the development of possibilities under which such State subventions would be rendered practically negligible. I am anxious for a recognition of disability payments, not because I hold that such will provide the most satisfactory solution of a difficult social problem, but because I am convinced that if it is discovered that the State, in order to give a reasonable standard of life, must provide large sums of money, then it may, from no other motive than that of economy, be induced to exercise its intelligence in the development of an entirely different line of policy and procedure, and seek by scientific means to reduce its financial burdens and incidentally to improve the status of handicapped people. It has been urged in certain quarters that the plea for assessment of disability is of a restrictive character, and that we only intend it to apply to those persons who are employed in Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind. This conception does not in any degree represent the correct point of view. As a matter of fact, I hold very tenaciously to the view that blind workers employed in the regularised Institutions have so far received the lion's share of all moneys that have been subscribed by the State, by local authorities, and by voluntary agencies. The fact is that the possession of earning power and the security of employment yielded to them by their association with Institutions would appear to give them a far smaller claim to consideration than those people who are struggling to gain a livelihood under very adverse conditions without the direct assistance of agencies for the blind.

No, if an assessment of disability is made, it should be capable of universal application, and should only discriminate in so far as the possession of the highest amount of earning power entitles the claimant for help to the least amount of disability grant. This conception is certainly equitable. It goes without saying that a very large section of the blind community cannot, under the best devised system conceivable, be transformed into wage earners: to such is extended all our sympathy and compassion, for their claim is one which a civilised community will never hesitate to support liberally; but in respect of the people who come within the sphere of employment,—for those the tendencies should be, in view of educational and other services that are available, to make the claims devolving upon the State and Local Authorities less exacting as the generations succeed each other, and in consequence also of the organisation and scientific application of the labour of which the blind are capable.

This is the ultimate objective to which I subscribe. It is no consolation to me to know that labour value is remaining practically a stationary quantity, whilst State subventions are increasing as the years go by. If I may be permitted to put the case shortly, it is thus :— That the State should provide a reasonable disability grant in consequence of the handicap from which we suffer, and seek by a process of future research and development to minimise the necessity for such grants by the scientific organisation and application of the services we are capable of rendering.

(*To be continued.*)

A BLIND JAPANESE STUDENT

WE have been greatly interested in meeting Mr. Takeo Iwahashi, a young Japanese student, who last year obtained his M.A. degree with distinction at Edinburgh University, and is reading for his degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Mr. Iwahashi, who became blind ten years ago, has been offered a lectureship at the Christian University of Kobe, in Japan, and he has gone back to his country especially to devote himself to work amongst blind Japanese. In Japan there are already eighty schools for the blind, but Mr. Iwahashi declares that many more Braille publications are required, and more statistics regarding the blind, also an extension of medical preventative work. He wishes to promote further interest in their welfare generally, particularly in the spirit of the relief work done by the Society of Friends, of which he became a member during his sojourn in Great Britain.

Son of a mining expert, he had hoped to follow in his father's profession, although his great love of beauty tempted him to art, but he became blind. He learned Braille and typewriting at the Osaka Blind School, and, like many other blind Japanese, qualified as a masseur. He distinguished himself, winning his diploma and a scholarship for an essay on Milton's Sonnets, this English poet being his great hero. Anxious to continue his studies, he was at length able to attend the Kwansei Gakuin, the largest Christian College in Japan. He was greatly helped by a Japanese lady, Miss Yano, who had been a nurse in a tuberculosis hospital, and had joined the " It-To En " Community, the members of which offer their services free for all sorts of helpful tasks. The principle of this community is that their lives should be " like water trickling beneath the soil unseen and unheard, but giving life to trees and flowers." This young lady read to him and helped him in many ways, amongst others in writing an autobiographical novel entitled " The Moving Grave," from the words in Milton's " Samson Agonistes." She became his wife, and they have a dear little son and daughter. Mr. Iwahashi is a strong Internationalist in his sympathies. He has studied Esperanto, and this brought him into touch with Mr. W. Percy Merrick, a keen Esperantist, who is a member of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind. We look forward with interest to the development of Mr. Iwahashi's career, for he affords us a splendid example of courage and perseverance in the face of a great handicap.

COLLEGE AND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND

THE School Teachers' Examination will be held on 22nd and 23rd May, 1928, at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W.3. Applications must be made not later than 21st April. The Home Teachers' Examination will be held on the 1st—3rd May, 1928, at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W.3, and at the School for the Blind, Benwell Dene, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Application must be made not later than 2nd April. Application forms and copies of the syllabus of either examination can be obtained from the Hon. Registrar, 224-8, Great Portland Street, London, W.1. A reprint of the Home Teachers' and the School Teachers' Examination Papers can also be obtained from the Hon. Registrar, price 1s. 1d. per set, post free

The Home Teachers' Handbook (2nd Edition) is now in the press, and will be issued shortly, price 3s., post free, from the National Institute for the Blind, 224-8, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

WE learn that Mr. R. Newson has been appointed to succeed the late Mr. Harry Nickels, as Superintendent of the Cleveland Institute for the Blind Workshop in Middlesborough. He has long been connected with the work for the Institute as its Secretary, a position which he will retain.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

A SCHEME for the adaptation and extension of Highfield House, Batley, as workshops and a home for the blind, has been decided upon, under which Dewsbury Corporation and the West Riding County Council will carry out the work. Dewsbury Corporation will contribute £1,666, and the County Council £3,334 of the capital expenditure of £5,000, the proportions being based on the number of blind persons in the respective areas.

AN extensive new wing to the Rhondda Institute for the Blind, which was erected at Llwynypia at a total cost of £14,000, was opened last November.

At the opening ceremony, it was reported by the Secretary that the total number of blind people in the area covered by the Institute was 335, an alarming increase since April last of 85, most of whom, he said, were miners who had gone blind through nystagmus and accidents.

The new section of the Institute was built last year at a cost of £3,000, and comprises two floors, intended for coal basket and pan brush-making purposes.

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND. The Report of this Institution is, as usual, of an interesting nature. There were 1,490 persons on the register at the end of March last; all, with the exception of some of the day scholars, were blind within the meaning of the Act. Twenty pupils completed their training during the year, most obtaining occupation. The wages paid to blind workers amounted to £9,319, which was supplemented from charitable funds by £7,783. There were 139 home workers on the register, whose earnings amounted to £5,043. The new extension of the workshops at Harborne were opened by the Rt. Hon. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., Minister of Health, on 8th October, 1926. In spite of general depression, the turnover of the Trading Department amounted to £37,900, compared with £37,845 for the preceding year, while the loss on trading activities was reduced by £647, as compared with the year 1925-6. Legacies to the value of £7,724 were received. The Midland Societies for the Blind, the collecting organisation to which this Institution belongs, collected £20,266 during the year, the net amount received by the Institution as its share being £6,840.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to 11th October, 988 wireless sets and 1,261 pairs of headphones have been distributed among the blind, the local Associations acting as distributing centres. As a result of the appeal 392 wireless sets and 204 pairs of headphones have been received.

Donations from private sources and grants from the National Institute for the Blind have enabled the Fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and the number distributed. Readers should note that all wireless sets sent out by the National Institute for the Blind remain the property of the Institute. When sets are no longer required by their users, they should be returned to the Institute.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

BIOGRAPHY.

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
Charles Lamb.	F. Masson	1

CLASSICS.

Milligan, G. (Ed. by).	Selections from Greek Papyri ..	3

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Brown, I.	H. G. Wells	1
Gollancz, I. (Ed. by).	Pearl	4
Milton, J.	Comus. (Edited with Notes by W. Bell) ..	3
Nicklin, T.	Standard English Pronunciation ..	2
Ward, A. W.	Chaucer	3

LOGIC.

Read, Carveth.	Logic, Deductive and Inductive ..	7

MODERN LANGUAGES.

Marivaux, P. C.	Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard ..	1

PHILOSOPHY.

Berkeley, Bishop.	Three Dialogues	2

POETRY AND DRAMA.

Ibsen, H.	Hedda Gabler	2

PSYCHOLOGY.

Rhodes, H.	Psychology and Tradition of Colour ..	1

SCIENCE.

Greenly, E.	The Earth, Its Nature and History ..	1
Huxley, T. H.	Lectures and Essays	7
Rice, J.	Relativity	1
Southerns, L.	Electricity and the Structure of Matter	2

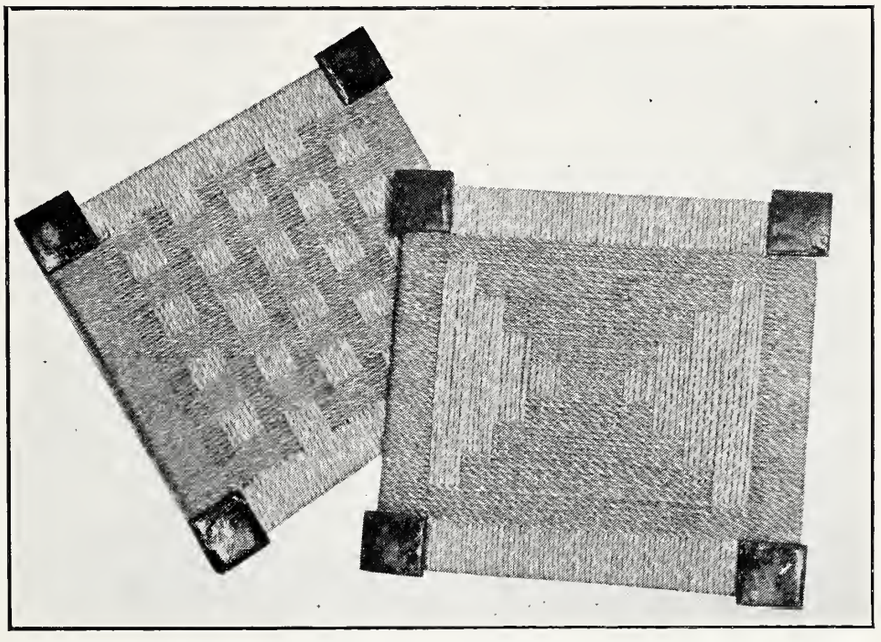
SOME lives stand out on headlands and are beacons for all mankind; but some more lovely and more precious come only by chance gleams in reflection to the knowledge of the whole world.—H. G. WELLS (*at the funeral of his wife*).

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

STOOL SEATING WITH SEAGRASS



HE seating of ready-made stool or chair frames with seagrass is an occupation which comes very near the writer's concept of what an ideal home occupation for the blind should be. It is light and simple, easily learned, requires no sighted assistance, and can be practised by workers of either sex and of practically any age. Moreover, no special equipment is required, the material is inexpensive and requires no preparation, and the minimum of working space is needed. The necessity of procuring the frames (except in the case of the woodworker who can make his own) is offset by the fact that the finished article, being a piece of furniture, has a status and monetary value not shared, unfortunately, by some of our humbler products.



Two Woven Patterns

THE FRAMES.—These are of plain oak or some cheaper wood, and can be obtained in several sizes and designs ; a frame 14 ins. by 12 ins. by 11 ins. costs about 3s. in birch and 5s. in oak. The following firms supply the frames and seagrass also : F. Aldous, 21, Marsden Square, Market Street, Manchester ; Country Industries, Ltd., 26, Eccleston Street, Victoria, S.W.1 ; Dryad Handicrafts, 42, St. Nicholas Street, Leicester ; M. Jacobs Young & Co., Ltd., 265, Borough High Street, S.E.1. The plain wood frame is sometimes seated and sold as it is, but most customers prefer the stool to be finished in some way, and this is best done before the seating is begun. Quite a good effect can be obtained on oak simply by smoothing with glasspaper and then rubbing in raw linseed oil ; but painting, staining, varnishing, polishing, or enamelling is sighted work for which arrangements must be made, usually an easy matter.

THE SEAGRASS.—Seagrass is a kind of sedge which grows wild in parts of India and China, and comes to the worker ready-twisted into a two-ply, continuous cord. It can be had in three thicknesses, either natural or dyed ; two-colour twists are also available. The price is about 1s. per lb. for natural and 1s. 6d. to 2s. dyed, and about a pound will be required for a seat of moderate size. It should be cut into lengths of six yards or so for convenience in working, a new length being attached to the old by a reef knot underneath the seat. The thinnest twist is employed for woven seats, while the medium and thick are suitable for the rush-seat pattern.

THE EQUIPMENT.—Apart from a knife or pair of scissors no tools are really needed, although some implement for facilitating the weaving in of the second stage in a woven seat is very useful. A wooden seagrass needle, or a thin rod of wood or cane, or a large bent packing needle can be employed. It is essential that the work be pressed up close where it passes over the rails, and for this the end of a wooden needle or any implement with a right-angled edge can be used.

RUSH-SEAT PATTERN.—The method used for this is exactly the same as for rush seating, which was explained in a previous article, except that in this case the work is greatly simplified owing to the material being ready-twisted and in continuous lengths. Seagrass seats if tightly worked do not need

stuffing as do the rush seats, but if this is found to be necessary rush should be used, as the seagrass is too hard for this purpose. Interesting effects can be obtained both in this pattern and the ones described below by using two or more colours—for example, the first half of seat might be done with natural seagrass and the remainder with red or orange.

WOVEN PATTERN No. 1.—This is probably the simplest pattern of all, but although pleasing in appearance and apparently popular, is somewhat loose. To begin, take the end of seagrass over what may be called the back rail of stool near the left-hand corner, and carry it right round rail close up to corner, then down on the outside to underside of rail where it is secured by being twisted round the previous lap. Pull the long end tight, making sure that the two laps on top and back of rail do not cross, and bring it over front rail near left-hand corner, then back underneath, round the back rail again, and so on till the whole of seat is filled with strands close together and running from back to front both above and underneath the seat. For the second stage, proceed to bind round and round as in the first, but at right angles to it until six strands have been put on. The following rows are worked as heretofore, one strand at a time, but the next six are taken under the first and last six strands of the first stage, the third group of six is taken under the first and last twelve strands, the fourth under the first and last eighteen, and so on till centre of seat is reached, when the process is reversed so as to correspond with the first half. The end is fastened off by knotting it round two of the strands of the first stage underneath. Some workers weave the underside of seat in the same way as the top, but this is not really necessary, a modified form of the particular pattern sufficing to make a tight and neat underside.

WOVEN PATTERN No. 2.—In two colours this gives a very pleasing check effect. Begin in the same way as for the previous pattern and continue until there are seven strands above the seat. Now, instead of taking the seagrass right across, bind it four times round the rail, then carry it across and bind four times round the rail on the opposite side also, beginning the binding close to the group of seven, and continue with alternate groups of seven strands and four laps round rails till seat is filled. The second stage is begun by weaving a strand over and under alternate groups, to be followed by six more strands in the same way. The weaving is then changed so that the next group of seven passes over the groups which the first seven passed under and *vice versa*. Each succeeding group is changed in the same way, and when the seat is completed the end is fastened off as before.

A. G. K.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

THE SECOND ANNUAL DINNER OF THE CAMBERWELL CIRCLE OF THE HELPERS OF THE BLIND was held at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, on Saturday, 26th November. The chief guests were Mr. H. C. Preece and Miss Edith Johnston.

THE CHAIRMAN (MR. WILLIAM E. WATKINSON), in proposing the toast of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, said it was a very great honour and privilege for him to offer a toast to such a worthy cause. Although he was supporting other organisations his first thoughts and actions were always for the blind, and he felt very proud of having been elected Chairman of the Circle for the ensuing year. He had studied most carefully the record of the Fund, and it filled him with pride to know what splendid results had been achieved. His sincere hope was that the people of London would soon realise the important and national work the Fund was performing, and in conclusion he wished it greater prosperity.

MR. H. C. PREECE, in replying, said it was really a great credit to the Camberwell Circle to meet annually at such a happy gathering, and it was a proof that the Circle was a live organisation bound together with comradeship, devotion and sympathy. He publicly thanked all the members for their untiring efforts and energy throughout the year, for the services they had rendered to the blind men, women and children of Greater London. After fully outlining the policy of the Fund, he pointed out that although its growth was most satisfactory, and in spite of the grants made by the State and local Authorities, at least £150,000 per annum (net) must be raised from charitable sources if the 7,500 blind within the area were to attain a standard of living at all comparable with that enjoyed by their sighted fellow-citizens. In proposing the toast to the Camberwell Circle he urged all members to support at all times their Chairman and Secretary.

The Secretary (Mr. Franklin Agutter) read the Annual Report, which showed that five committee meetings, two concerts, 21 socials (which had been the means of raising money for the expenses of the concerts and flag-days, etc.) and a reception had taken place during the year. He stated that the Circle was in a very healthy condition, and expressed his grateful thanks for again being elected Honorary Secretary. He pointed out that although this was the Second Annual Dinner the Circle had really been working since 1921, but had been reorganised in 1924 on business lines. He appealed for a closer co-operation of other Circles, and hoped in the near future that guest-nights would be organised so as to enable the members of all Circles to meet and keep in closer touch. He stated that the women on the Circle were a wonderful body of workers, ever ready to do their full share of the work; their friendly socials or "at homes" had been the means of enrolling many new members and stimulating fresh energy and friendship. He also thanked the Secretary of the Brixton Group of Toc H and its members for their loyal support by collecting on Geranium Day and also for acting as stewards at the concerts. In thanking Mr. Preece and Miss Johnston for attending, he said he was greatly inspired and touched by the kind remarks which had been made, and he assured them that he would carry on and go forward to further the aims for which the Fund stood. Already the smiles and thanks of the blind themselves compensated for all the difficulties and discouragements which always fall to the lot of an organiser. Finally, he said that he believed the time would come when the rising generation of the blind would proudly point to and thank the men and women of to-day for providing them with a better and a more secure livelihood than that which was enjoyed by the blind of to-day.

Mr. Green (late Chairman), who proposed the toast of the visitors, said it was a great pleasure to meet so many who had the welfare of the blind at heart; he hoped they would always assist in any work that would benefit them. Apart from the call of charity it was really a duty—in better words an act of mercy. He endorsed the remarks of the previous speaker in thanking the Brixton Group of Toc H for their laudable services during the year.

The dinner was followed by a dance, in which many outside friends joined.

The function was a great success, and all members and friends are eagerly awaiting the Third Annual Dinner.

* * *

As the Secretary's account of the Camberwell Annual Dinner has been included in this issue, according to promise, many of the events for the benefit of the Fund held during the month of December must be recorded later. Such outstanding successes as the collections made by the blind Dickens' Carol Party and the Dickens' Ball, held at the May Fair Hotel on December 14th, cannot, however, pass without notice.

The latter event was organised by an influential Committee under the Chairmanship of Lady English. Among the patrons were Sir Henry Dickens, K.C., and Lady Dickens, who, together with Lady English, received the guests. The feature of the evening was the period quadrille arranged by Mrs. Shuckburgh (*nee* Miss Olive Dickens), in which she had the assistance of other members of the family, together with well-known artistes, including Miss Muriel Pope, Miss Louise Brown, Miss Ivy Tresmand, Mr. Harold French, Mr. Clifford Mollison, Mr. Bransby Williams, and Mr. Acton Acton-Bond. Miss Marguerite Vacani very kindly coached the members of the quadrille, who were the guests at supper time of Mrs. Curran-Gadsden.

Among those who brought large parties were Lady Towse, Lady Becker, Lady Beit, Lady Joynson-Hicks, Lady Chalmers, Miss Mabel Terry Lewis (in whose party were Lord Stavordale, the Hon. William Smith and Miss Faith Celli), Lady McLintock, Lady May, O.B.E., Lady Sharp, Mrs. Howard Humphris, Mrs. Ralph Grigg, Mrs. Curran-Gadsden, Mrs. Hardie, Mrs. Fenn-Smith, etc.

Miss Ruth English, dressed as "Annie Strong," led a band of posy sellers; these included Miss Rosemary Dickens Shuckburgh and Miss Douglas, daughter of Mr. James Douglas. A most successful event both socially and financially.

Honest men esteem and love nothing so much in this world as a real friend. Such a one is, as it were, another self to whom we impart our most secret thoughts, who partakes in our joy and comforts us in our affliction. Add to this that his company is an everlasting pleasure to us.—*Pilpay.*

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

AS is generally known, the National Library for the Blind suffered heavily in the Thames flood on the night of January 6.

The water flowed in at the Tufton Street side of the building, gathering way as it ran, and poured in a literal torrent down the steps and the lift shaft, flooding the basement of the Great Smith Street premises, ruining some thousands of the volumes shelved there, and doing considerable other damage. A number of mail bags, containing books waiting for the Saturday morning 8 o'clock Post Office collection, were partially inundated, and in this way a number of volumes were totally ruined; many will have to be re-copied, and in some cases re-transcribed from the print before they can be read again.

The Library Committee and Staff would like to take this opportunity of warmly thanking the many readers and friends who have been so quick to show their ready help and sympathy in this time of anxiety.

The spirit of spontaneous fellowship and co-operation shown is a very real encouragement in helping us to shoulder the additional burden and the temporary and partial disorganisation which has of necessity been caused.

O. I. PRINCE,
Secretary & Librarian,
35, Great Smith Street,
Westminster, S.W. 1.

FANCY DRESS CARNIVAL

A CHILDREN'S Fancy Dress Carnival, in aid of the National Library for the Blind, was held on the 17th January, at 27, Grosvenor Square, by kind permission of Mrs. Robert Fleming. The rooms were full to overflowing, and the fancy dresses were very charming. In particular we noticed one wee baby, dressed after a picture by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and a most original costume worn by Shockheaded Peter. A sumptuous tea with beautiful crackers, which was greatly enjoyed by the children, was provided in the tapestry-hung dining-room, where the children sat at long tables in the good old nursery way. A charming little fantasy was acted, of which the ballet was arranged by Miss Vacani. This was followed by a song-scena, "Good-Night, Mr. Moon," arranged by the Hon. Mrs. Gillian, who also organised the party.

Prizes were given for the brightest, most original and most accurate costumes, and were distributed by Her Grace the Duchess of Buckingham.

THE FOUNDLINGS AND CAROLS FOR THE BLIND

IT will be remembered that the National Institute issues annually a booklet of carols composed by blind poets and put to music by blind musicians. Year by year many people kindly respond to the Appeal Letter, signed by Capt. Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., with which a copy of this booklet is enclosed, by arranging a carol service in places of worship or organising an outdoor carol party. In return for this the National Institute makes a free grant of copies to the choristers.

Amongst the many choirs which have helped this year is that of children of the Foundling Hospital, which has recently removed to Redhill. Here is an extract from a touching letter from the Chaplain, the Rev. R. Snowdon Smith, M.A., enclosing the carol offertory of the children :—

> "As our children gained their 'mites,' I think it would interest them if you would inform me how many wireless sets would be provided for blind people out of the amount sent herewith."

Surely this is a remarkable instance of that all too rare spirit of forgetting one's own sorrows in endeavouring to assist others who are in even greater trouble, and we venture to comment on it as an example worthy of emulation.

* * *

The ink was scarcely dry when the pen was taken up to record similar help from the Spurgeon Orphan Homes, Stockwell, where a delightful carol concert was rendered under the direction of Dr. J. E. Green, Mus. Doc., the Headmaster. If, at the Christmas Season, all these dear children are thus taught to forget their own troubles in contemplation of the terrible deprivations of others, who shall say that the Spirit of Christmas cannot be made one of the most potent influences in the moulding of a child's character?

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
LIST OF ADDITIONS
January, 1928.

FICTION. *Vols.*

*Allen, C. R. Brown Smock 2
Bourchier, Helen. White Lady of the Zenana .. 3
†Butler, S. Way of All Flesh 5
†Byrne, D. Hangman's House 5
Croker, B. M. Pagoda Tree 4
Deeping, W. Lantern Lane 5
Doyle, A. Conan. Land of Mist 4
Fletcher, J. S. Charing Cross Mystery 4
"Ganpat." Voice of Dashin 5
†Heidenstam, V. Von. Tree of the Folkungs .. 4
*Hudson, W. H. Little Boy Lost 1
James, H. Reverberator 3
†Larsen, J. A. Philosopher's Stone 4
Mitchison, Naomi. When the Bough Breaks (Short Stories) 4
Roberts, C. G. D. Watchers of the Trails 4
*Strang, H. Martin of Old London 2
Wallace, E. Avenger 4
Wells, H. G. World of William Clissold 11
*Wylie, Elinor. Venetian Glass Nephew 1

MISCELLANEOUS.

Agate, J. Playgoing 1
Andrade, E. M. da C. Atom 2
Aumonier, S., and Belcher, G. Odd Fish 1
Austen-Leigh, M. A. Personal Aspects of Jane Austen 2
Blavatsky, H. P. Secret Doctrine (Abridged by K. Hillard) 9
Cran, Marion. Garden of Ignorance 3
Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (Douay Version) 1
Fairbridge, K. Autobiography 3
†Ferrero, G. Women of the Caesars 2
Funk-Brentano, F. Earliest Times: National History of France. (E. W. Austin Memorial) .. 8
Gatty, R. Robert Clive 3
Geley, G. From the Unconscious to the Conscious 5
Glazebrook, Canon M. G. Apocalypse of St. John 3
Gore, Canon C. Epistles of St. John 3
Gregory, J. W. Making of the Earth. (E. W. Austin Memorial) 2
Haweis, H. R. My Musical Life 9
Hudson, W. H. Far Away and Long Ago .. 5
Lodge, Sir O. Science and Human Progress .. 2
Masterman, J. H. B. Was Jesus Christ Divine? .. 2
Phillpotts, E. Farmer's Wife 1
Sedgwick, H. D. Spain: a Short History of its Politics, Literature and Art 5
Shield, A. & Lang, A. King Over the Water. (E. W. Austin Memorial) 10
†Torday, E. On the Trail of the Bushongo 2
Troward, T. Hidden Power and Other Essays .. 3
Van Der Leeuw, J. J. Fire of Creation 3

GRADE III.

Matthews, B. Black Treasure 1

FOREIGN.

†Barthou, L. Vie Amoureuse de Richard Wagner .. 1
†Bergson, H. Matière et Mémoire 2
†de Pourtalès, G. Vie de Franz Liszt 2
†Dubois, T. Traité d'Harmonie théorique et practique 2
†Dubois, T. Realisations des Basses et des Chants du Traité d'Harmonie 1
†Farrère, C. & P. Chack. Un Combat et une Bataille (Coronel-Falkland) 1
†Fouché, M. Merveilles du Ciel 2
†Jequier, G. Histoire de la Civilisation Egyptienne 3
†Zola, E. Le Rêve 3

MOON.

Silberrad, Una L. Green Pastures 6

*Presented by the National Institute for the Blind.
†Presented by the American Braille Press.

BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL.

Home Teacher for the Blind.

The Bucks County Council invite applications for the post of a second Female Home Teacher for the Blind (sighted), to be appointed at an initial salary of £150 per annum. It is one of the terms of the appointment that the successful candidate, if not already qualified, shall obtain the Home Teaching Certificate of the College of Teachers of the Blind, as prescribed by the Ministry of Health, within two years of commencing duty. The salary will be increased to the scale laid down for the established post (£200 per annum, rising by annual increments of £12 10s. to a maximum salary of £250), upon approved service and obtaining the necessary qualification.

It is essential that the applicant can use a cycle.

Applications stating age, qualifications and experience, together with copies of three recent testimonials, should be submitted to the undersigned not later than the 28th February, 1928.

S. J. C. HOLDEN,
County Medical Officer of Health.

County Health Office,
Aylesbury.

National Institute for the Blind requires early in March a **Matron** for Sunshine House (Home for about twenty babies), Chorley Wood, Herts. Must be fully-trained and certificated Nurse, with special children's experience; also qualified to undertake administrative duties. Salary £120 per annum, plus uniform allowance, rising by £10 to £150. Particulars and form of application, Secretary-General, 224, Great Portland Street, London.

COMFORTABLE HOME FOR TWO, semi-invalid or blind. Special attention; country. Terms moderate. Stone, Chadmead Poultry Farm, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

French Lessons by Correspondence in Braille will be gladly given for moderate fees, and works translated into French, by a blind French lady, formerly French Mistress in an English High School.—Miss Delbende, 44, Rue de Lille, Paris, 7.

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the January Numbers)

Progress.—A New Year (Poem)—New Year's Day Customs "What's To-Day?"—Where Shakespeare Went A-Wooing—The Eskimo as He is To-Day—A Fascinating Rascal—Matters of the Moment—Correspondence—Building the Iron Road—Result of Christmas Cross-Word Puzzle—Advertisements—"Mary had a Little Lamb"—Every Home a Zoo—Our Prize Competitions—Hidden Poems—A Page of Nuggets—Question Box—French Page—Fiction: Julia's Engagement; The Value of History; Stories of the Day—Supplements: Chess; Home Occupations (Wool Rug Making); Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—John Bunyan To-Day—Napoleon II: The King who was forgotten—Reading for a Living—The Eighth Assembly of the League of Nations—The Skeltic Movement—Lady unto Fox (Poem)—Reviews of some Novels—Electropolis—Ten to One—Notices—Comédie Française—Supplements; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—The Symphonic Use of Rhythm—How to Publish (concluded)—Special Notice about Insets and Reviews—Correspondence—Notes and News Concerning the Blind——English, the most musical Language—The "Little Organ Book" of Bach—Supplements: Braille Music Reviews—Notice—Announcements—Inset: Music Coupons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 6d., post free.)

Massage Journal.—The Annual Meeting—Review of New Book in the Massage Library. Supplements: "Massage Journal" Inset: Stimulative Radiation of the Skin with the Quartz Mercury Vapour Lamp (concluded)—The Annual Meeting (continued from Journal)—Official Notice. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—Fifty Men and a Whale—The Nights (Poem)—Where Our Animals Come From—How Men are Building Islands—When Water Freezes—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—The Brave Thing the Prince Did—A Motor Ride Through the Jungle. Supplements: Comrades. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—A Tailor of the Trees—Buried Treasure of the Eskimos—Kindness is always with us—Why Clothes get Moth-eaten—Gabriel Samara, Book II, Chaps XII to XIV—The Romance of our Christmas Hymns—Cook's Humble Friend—"Moving In" Day for the Monkeys—Good News for the Deaf-Blind—Thoughts for the New Year—King Edward through German Eyes—Why be Poor?

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Ice—News Items—The Poets' Corner—Legal Notes—Favourite Quotations—The Year 1920 and After—Colonial Notes—Book Review—Advertisements and General Notices—Notice—Bills Before Parliament—Master of Moves—National Health Insurance—Provident Societies—The Deaf-Blind Helpers' League. Supplements: Literary "The New Pensions Regulations"—Music Coupons: "Queen of the Fairies" (Piano) by F. G. Byford—"Toy-Town Parade" (Song Fox-Trot) by H. Nicholls. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

The Seeker.—Editorial—The Thoughts of God—Catholicism and Humanity—Rev. W. G. Peck—The Mystery-Teaching of the Bible—XI: Some Gospel Interpretations, D. Grover—The Dramatic History of the Christian Faith—VIII: Plotinus, the Father of Christian Mysti ism—Standing Aloof.

Moon Magazine.—Old and New Year Ditty, by Christina G. Rossetti—Canon Brunnitch ("T. P.'s Weekly")—The Friendly Foe, by Vic Wentworth—Why the Nightingale has such a Wonderful Voice, by Elizabeth Evans—"Land of My Fathers"—Plants that Eat Stone.

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Résumé of Programmes Broadcast from all Stations of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1928

MARCH

Vol. XII No. 135

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	ORGAN—		
8313	Suite in F, Solo No. 10, by Corelli (arr. by Westbrook) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8314	Romanza in E flat, from the Symphony "La Reine de France," by Haydn (arr. by Best) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8315	"Prélude Elégiaque" and "Pensée d'Automne," by J. Jongen (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8316	Prelude (in form of a Chaconne), Op. 88, No. 2, by Stanford (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	PIANO—		
8317	Sonata No. 31 in A flat, Op. 110, by Beethoven, Macpherson's Edition (Bar by bar)	5	4
8318	Six Variations on an Original Theme in F, Op. 34, by Beethoven (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8319	Suite Mignonne (Five Easy Pieces), by Edwin Benbow (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8320	"Carmen," by Bizet (Selection arr. by Dunstan) (Bar by bar), pocket size	3	4
8321	"A Fairy Tale" (Suite of Four Pieces), by Frank Bridge (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	8
8322	Holberg Suite, Op. 40, by Grieg (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	4
8323	Hopak, by Moussorgsky (arr. by Rachmaninoff) (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8324	"Night of June," Intermezzo, by G. F. Tomlinson (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8325	"O Polichinello," by H. Villa-Lobos (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	DANCE—		
8326	"Blue Skies," Song Fox-Trot, by Irving Berlin (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8327	"The Yale Blues," by V. Ellis (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8328	"Charmaine!" Song-Waltz, by E. Rapee and L. Pollack (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
8329	"Under the Clover Moon," Song Fox-Trot, by J. Schwartz (Bar by bar), pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
8330	"Would you taste the Noontide Air?" by T. A. Arne, G, Compass D to G′, pocket size	2	0
8331	"The Enchanted Wood," by Granville Bantock, F minor, Compass B♭ to E′, pocket size	2	0
8332	"Paddy's Choice," by W. H. Bullock, D minor, Compass A♭ to D′, pocket size	2	0
8333	"Over the Meadow," by Molly Carew, D, Compass D to F′, pocket size	2	0
8334	"John Anderson, my Jo" (arr. by Clutsam), F minor, Compass C to E′, pocket size	2	0
8335	Two Old English Songs: 1, "So sweet is Shee"; 2, "My lytell prety one" (arr. by Arnold Dolmetsch), Compass E to G′, pocket size	2	0
8336	Gavotte, by Herbert Howells, G, Compass D to F′, pocket size	2	0
8337	"The Cheery Philosopher," by C. A. Lidgey, G, Compass B♭ to E′, pocket size	2	0
8338	"Ah! mon fils" (Ah! my son), Soprano Air from "Le Prophète," by Meyerbeer, F sharp minor, Compass B♭ to A′	2	0
8339	"Ah! Io so!" (Ah, alas! how all hath vanished), by Mozart, Soprano Air from "The Magic Flute," G minor, Compass C sharp to B′	2	0
8340	"A Spring Song," by Frederick C. Nicholls, G, Compass C sharp to F′, pocket size	2	0
8341	"A Blackbird's Song," by Sanderson, D, Compass D to G′, pocket size	2	0

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

		s.	d.
2620-2624	"The History of Mr. Polly," by H. G. Wells, 5 vols. (Limited Edition) per vol.	12	0
2373	St. John, Chapter 19 (**Giant Type**)	3	6
2482	St. Luke, Chapter 1 (**Giant Type**)	5	0

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

		s.	d.
	BIOGRAPHY—		
7648-7652	The Life and Letters of Walter H. Page, Part 1, by Burton J. Hendrick. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Paper Covers, 5 vols. per vol.	6	3

Continued on page 3 of Cover

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XII.—NO. 135. MARCH, 1928. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

A MAGAZINE BY THE BLIND



MOST people of average intelligence have at some time endeavoured to express themselves in prose or poetry, apart from inevitable correspondence. Many of us have at least one lyric to our names enshrining, however imperfectly, some treasured emotion of unusual significance ; or a short story embodying a personal episode which has struck us as something which could *never* have happened to anyone else !

And most of those who, so far, have not permitted words to reveal their sacred emotions or ideas, think that it would be a very easy matter to do so—should the time ripen ! In fact, a general opinion is that writing is awfully easy, and that authors and poets have " soft jobs."

We will not endeavour to argue against such a widespread view of the quality of authorship, as we are sure that whatever we might modestly urge, it would be quite unconvincing to those who, merely by addressing to us an indignant letter, might prove us hopelessly in the wrong. But we may safely express the desire that the opinion should bear fruit, and that all who think they ought to write should do so.

Setting down ideas on paper is a very healthy occupation, providing you do not necessarily conclude that they will be as interesting to others as yourself, and we consider that encouragement should be given to everyone, especially young people, to fashion their thoughts into words and definitely find out how much value they really possess. If taken seriously, the results may promote a general and very welcome tightening-up of the intelligence by eliminating that loose habit of thinking which permits thoughts so to jostle each other out of the way that all strength is exhausted in trying to get standing room, and a thought which might satisfactorily arrive at a termination becomes a useless wisp of insignificance at the mercy of every cross current.

Accordingly, it gives us great pleasure to know that at the Chorley Wood College for Girls with little or no sight, the College Magazine has reached its sixth issue, and to find that it contains a great deal of very interesting evidence of mental activity.

A great many well-meaning people would imagine that to produce a magazine of 34 pages from a College for Blind Girls was an impossibility, forgetting, as they do forget, that blind people often possess brains quite as active, if not more so, than people with eyesight. The " more so " may be questioned, but it is an interesting fact that many blind people, probably because of the necessity for forgetting their handicap, are extraordinarily energetic, and not only do much more work in a day than other people, but insist on the " other people " doing likewise ! Blind people's leisure moments must be filled : otherwise they are but trying moments. The blind cannot spend half-an-hour in gazing innocuously at an industrious ant, but must

imitate the ant and spend their half-an-hour in doing something—or, at any rate, in thinking something. And to think is much more like hard work than to watch!

However that may be, the Chorley Wood College Magazine throws a strong light on the vigorous mental and physical activities of the Chorley Wood College pupils. The Editorial contains a charming and hospitable invitation, which we have accepted on the spot: "For the time being, the School lies within our pages. Enter! All you who would know us better, and also all you who know us best, here we are! The Lectures, Matches, Flights of Fancy, Examinations, Expeditions, Humour—in short, Ourselves!"

Now, that is what we call wholehearted, and wholeheartedly we have obeyed. And we will admit at once that, as is hoped, we have found in matter and in manner "the perfect blend."

The lively Editorial is followed by accounts of the production of an allegorical play containing original music by pupils, in which all members of the School took part. The Modern Miss is well depicted in these pages, as accounts of Sport X Matches follow immediately after Dramatic and Musical Art, and prove beyond a doubt that Chorley Wood is nothing if not progressive.

You might not think so, but we get some very vivid snapshots of travel in this unique magazine. One girl goes to "beloved Vienna," and quotes Johann Strauss: "Home on the banks of the Danube, my heart and my hand, my treasure and blood, are dedicated for all time."

Another girl describes a liner—she knows the ship by heart—the cabins, the music room, the nursery, the theatre, the kitchen, the hospital, the engine-room. She has noticed the shape of the tables, the method of washing-up dishes, the storage of corn and wheat, the canvas furniture covers when the ship is being cleaned.

Another girl has visited Canterbury Cathedral and Rochester Castle. She has *felt* the armour of the Black Prince; she has noticed the shape of the Archbishop's Throne. Her hands on the "insignificant little tablet" to St. Thomas à Becket have conjured up for her memories of "his ashes thrown to the winds." Wind and rain came through the loopholes of the Castle to tell of its rugged charm: "occasionally a pigeon would fly by." Below "the town with all its busy life stretched away." And she has seen over the Medway, "dark and grey and forbidding," the sun shining brightly "on a distant hill."

Two girls describe the "big brown bear with a wonderful coat," "the enormous shark" ("you could see right down its throat") and skins and nests and birds at the Tring Museum. Here is Bruges to the life: "Half-way up the Belfry a light appears. There is perfect stillness in the square. From the Belfry the choir is singing 'Chantons le Seigneur.' It is invisible and the voices seem to come from far away"; "and the echoes of 'Ave Maria' go home to the towers from whence they came."

Another girl sees in Fort Halstead on the North Downs an excellent setting for another "Wuthering Heights." Then may we *hope* for another?

The verse is distinctly good. There is a ballad of "Jack o' Lantern and Jill o' Willow":

But when up and crows the red, red, cock,
And when up and crows the gray,
They hide themselves in pool and tree
The whole of the livelong day.

"Such is Life" is the monologue of a wasp who finds it "very difficult to keep unsquashified":

For when they hear us buzzing (as buzz we always do),
The dogs and cats and all the house make such a hullaballoo.
The dogs jump up and try to snap us in their gaping jaws,
The cats all do their beastly best to pat us with their paws.

. . . . . .

But what's the use of talking, at least about such strife,
As water, knives and animals, all make a waspish life.

And all our heart goes out to Jim:

He was a stupid man, you see;
He ran a mile to catch a flea,
He ran and then he called out, "Stop!"
(The flea did nothing else but hop).

But Jim, he could not catch the flea,
And so he went back to his tea;
(But walking up the garden path,
His wife called out, "You need a bath!")

We have not sufficient space to give more quotations from this delightful little periodical, but we take this opportunity of congratulating the contributors, and of begging them to continue to "express themselves" in such lively and entertaining prose and verse.

And is there any reason why we should *not* hope for the Halstead "Wuthering Heights"?

THE EDITOR.

PERSONALITIES
IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND
Mr. E. JONES, J.P.



AMONGST those who have put their handicap of blindness to good purpose in helping their fellow-sufferers is the subject of this month's sketch, Mr. E. Jones, J.P., of Swindon, Wiltshire. Born in Llanelly, in South Wales, in 1852, he lost his sight whilst employed in the Great Western Railway Works at Swindon, 42 years ago. He tells us that he was inspired to "carry on" by the example of Henry Fawcett, late Postmaster-General, who was then alive; and in like manner Mr. Jones himself may well be an inspiration to those who, having become blind, are in need of guidance.

His activities as a blind man may be said to have started when, being no longer able to follow his trade as an engine fitter, he started business in the grocery trade, with the able help of his wife, carrying on for a number of years a successful wholesale and retail business. Later he was offered and accepted the appointment of Sub-Postmaster. At that time—namely, in 1899—there was no branch of the Postmasters' Federation in Swindon. An ardent trade unionist, Mr. Jones soon got into touch with the General Secretary of the Sub-Postmasters' Federation, and it was mainly by his efforts that the Swindon Branch was eventually opened with nine members in March, 1914. To-day, it has a membership of 126. He has represented it at the Cardiff, Exeter, Nottingham, and London Conferences, and also, during the last seven years, at conferences in Portsmouth, Cardiff, Bournemouth, and Aberdeen. For some years he represented his Branch on the Southern District Council, and in 1926 he held the position of Chairman of that body.



Mr. E. Jones, J.P.

A great many of our readers will remember his work in connection with the National Institute for the Blind, of which he was Local Honorary Secretary for a period of seventeen years. He was in constant correspondence and was personally acquainted with the late Secretary-General, Mr. Henry Stainsby, and informs us that he was with him in his office six days before his sudden death.

Mr. Jones was an indefatigable worker among the blind, and, as he tells us, he was personally acquainted with some seventy blind people in Swindon, being instrumental in obtaining for them many advantages, including the provision of reading matter and assistance in respect to the State Aid Pensions under the Blind Persons Act, 1920. For some years he was also a representative of the Wiltshire County Voluntary Association for the Blind, being a member of their Committee and acting as an almoner in distributing grants from their funds.

In March, 1892, he was elected a member of the new Swindon Local Board. Eight years later a Charter of Incorporation was granted to old and new Swindon, which thereby became one corporate borough with a council of twelve aldermen and thirty-six councillors. One of their first aldermen was the subject of our biography, who served on most of the committees, both as chairman and vice-chairman, and, in 1921, was elected Mayor of the town and Chief Magistrate. It will be remembered that, in that year, we published a photograph in the Beacon of Mr. Jones wearing his chain of office. In the previous autumn his photograph and that of his wife, who is seen reading to him, also appeared in our magazine.

In 1917 he became J.P. for the borough, and immersed himself in his new activities. He also concerned himself deeply with Church matters, having for over thirty years been a member, and twice a president of the Local Free Church Council. He was one of the representatives of the Oxford Wesleyan Synod, and a trustee of at least a dozen churches. He is a member of the Bible Society's Local Committee, and his charitable activities include work on the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Girls' Rescue Work. Though advanced in years, he is still active as a Wesleyan lay preacher, and there are few villages in a radius of twenty-five miles which he has not visited during the last forty-six years, either on behalf of his own Church or of other Churches desiring his help in pulpit work. His time is fully occupied, and he continues—and will, we trust, continue for many years to come—to carry out his life's motto: "Service, not self." In all his work he has been ably assisted by his wife.

RECITALS BY BLIND ORGANISTS

IN connection with the regular Friday lunch-hour recitals, the National Institute has been asked to arrange a series of five Friday lunch-hour recitals at Christ Church, Westminster, during March. The following organists will contribute programmes :—

March 2nd. Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus.Bac., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.
„ 9th. Mr. S. Kerry, F.R.C.O.
„ 16th. Mr. H. J. Pyne, F.R.C.O.
„ 23rd. Mr. T. Percival Dean, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.
„ 30th. Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O.

The recitals commence at 1.15 p.m., and occupy about 45 minutes.

In addition to the above, Mr. H. W. Greenhill, F.R.C.O., assisted by Mr. Thomas Watson, baritone, will give a recital at St. Saviour's Church, Clapham, S.W., on Saturday, March 10th, at 7.30 p.m.

A DEPUTATION from the Royal Blind Asylum and School to the Edinburgh magistrates was informed that, while the magistrates could not recommend their use, blind persons might add to their safety in crossing the streets by wearing a distinctive armlet, or by carrying a small red flag.

ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

THE following successes are registered amongst the Students who entered for examination during the Christmas Term :—

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS—

David Williams (aged 18) Fellowship Diploma. He also gained the Lafontaine Prize for having obtained the highest number of marks of all the Candidates entered for the Examination.

(Twenty-eight Students from the College now hold the F.R.C.O., and sixty-four the A.R.C.O. Diploma.)

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—LICENTIATE DIPLOMA—

Pianoforte Playing—Sarah Beddow, Charles Paint.

Singing—Emily Penn.

(Forty Students from the College now hold the Licentiate Diploma for Pianoforte Playing, and fifteen for Singing.)

TRINITY COLLEGE, LONDON — ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA—Lance Gibson.

LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC — ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA—Robert Savage.

ASSOCIATED BOARD—LOCAL CENTRE—

Pianoforte Playing — Intermediate — Amelia Percival, Jean Tompsett, Violet Wallace, Sidney Wells.

Advanced—Keith Burrows, Eustace Escott, Ivy Cook, Gladys Wilcox.

SCHOOLS' EXAMINATION—PIANOFORTE PLAYING—

Primary Division—Jean Hall, Arthur James, Anthony Whelan.

Elementary Division—Gordon Littlewood, Doris Rabjohns.

Lower Division—Thomas Fenwick, Philip Talbott.

Higher Division—Doris Archer, Edwin Gates.

JUNIOR OXFORD LOCAL EXAMINATION—

Kathleen Cogar, Kathleen Lloyd, Sidney Wells.

The following Prizes have been won previously by Students from Norwood at the Royal College of Organists :—

Lafontaine Prize, Fellowship—Henry Newell, July, 1916; William Avery, January, 1924.

Turpin Prize—Wilfred Kershaw (the late), July, 1914; Leonard Marsh, January, 1918; Percival Dean, July, 1922.

Lafontaine Prize, Associateship — Victor Spanner, July, 1907; Sydney Anstey, July, 1910.

Sawyer Prize—Andrew Fraser, July, 1913; Sydney Jones, January, 1920; Leonard Harding, July, 1922; David Williams, January, 1926.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE



A JOINT Memorandum has been issued by the Scottish Education Department and the Scottish Board of Health, based on a recent review in these two bodies of the arrangements for the technical education of blind persons, which Education Authorities and Local Authorities have made with Voluntary Institutions for the Blind under the Blind Persons Act, 1920. The Advisory Committee state that hitherto most of the technical training has been undertaken in the workshops of Institutions for the Blind. The training has not been subject to any form of external supervision. Each Institution has adopted methods and practice suitable to the industrial conditions of the locality, and the occupations taught have been limited to those carried on for commercial purposes by the Institution. There have been no teachers exclusively engaged in giving instruction, and it has, therefore, been impossible to give special attention to the aptitudes of learners, and to lay down definite courses covering recognised periods of training. The Advisory Committee do not consider these methods satisfactory, and recommend that technical instruction should be given in special craft schools where the whole attention of the staff can be devoted towards the production of good workers and good workmanship. They are also of opinion that it would be wasteful for each Institution to establish a craft school, and they, therefore, strongly recommend that the policy be kept in view of establishing either one or two central technical schools for the technical training of the blind in Scotland. The Committee are, however, compelled to recognise that, to carry out this ideal of centralising instruction, special buildings would be required, and that these do not at present exist. From enquiries made, they find that Aberdeen Asylum for the Blind, the Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind, the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, and the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, can make provision to meet the needs, though the provision does not adequately meet the demand. The memorandum adds that the Department and the Board concurred in the opinion of the Advisory Committee that technical education should be given in special craft schools; but, in view of the conditions then existing, they agreed to the adoption of the temporary measures suggested. The memorandum indicates the general organisation which the Department and Board consider to be required for the adequate training of blind persons. Points from their conclusions include the recommendation that eligibility should depend upon the applicants being blind, the criterion of blindness being "too blind to perform work for which eyesight is essential." The second condition of eligibility for technical training under the Blind Persons Act is capacity for receiving and benefiting by such education. There should be no maximum age for entering upon a course of technical education, though the minimum age should be sixteen. Applicants should, in the first instance, be admitted on probation; the period of technical education should be five years, but this requirement must not be too rigid, and careful account must be taken of the locality in which the person is likely to settle, so that he may have scope for his occupation.

The memorandum stresses the desirability of avoiding a break in the progress of the blind from school to training institution, or from training institution to final employment, and calls attention to some recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the subject of reducing the waiting list of applicants for admission to technical education courses.

It is urged that everything should be done to forecast the future status under the Blind Persons Act of the partially blind child.

A useful feature of this memorandum consists of the various appendices, showing the Incidents of Responsibility for the technical education and maintenance of blind persons, the proper periods for their training in the various industrial occupations, and the notes and directions with regard to items relevant to the subject in the Technical Education Account.

THE Swansea Blind Persons Act Committee has decided to adopt a scheme for the augmentation of the wages of workers in the Swansea Institution, and, for the unemployable blind, a scale which provides 10s. pension at fifty years and augmentation up to 22s. 6d. a week otherwise. The probable cost to the Council will be £260.

THE EDUCATION OF BLIND CHILDREN

THE January number of the *Revue Internationale de l'Enfant* (London: The Weardale Press, 1s., post free) contains an article by Mr. J. M. Ritchie, Ph.D., on the education of blind children. He traces the advance made since the days when education of blind children was mainly furnished by the existing charitable institutions, to the efficient system which operates to-day, when there are about fifty day schools and thirty residential schools for blind children, in addition to three secondary and two nursery schools.

As readers are aware, it was not until the last decade of the 19th century that it became a statutory obligation on school boards in Great Britain to see that an efficient elementary education was provided for blind children between the ages of five and sixteen. "A blind pupil," says the writer, "comes to the end of his primary education at the age of sixteen, but two or three years before that time his teachers have been trying to discover the line of work for which he is suited. From the infant classroom upwards he has been taught to use his hands first in social activities such as dressing, table laying, etc., with Montessori apparatus, and later with simple handicrafts. By the age of thirteen or fourteen it will have been evident to his teachers whether he can hope to take up music as a profession, or whether he must rest content with basket-making or one of the other occupations followed in workshops for the blind."

Those interested in child education will find the review, which has been published in this country, of great interest. In the January number Professor G. Lombardo-Radice speaks of journals published for and by children in Italy. This article is written in French, and there is also one in German by Dr. Fritz Wittels, on education through the child.

An international review of this description does most useful work in gathering together modern ideas prevalent in various countries to-day.

THE Clothworkers' Company which, among numerous other benefactions, gives generous help to the work of the blind, has just celebrated the 400th anniversary of the granting of its Charter.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

ON the afternoon of Saturday, 21st January, Mr. William Wolstenholme, Mus.Bac. (Oxon), gave the recital at the diploma distribution at the Royal College of Organists, Kensington Gore. The programme was selected by the College from the pieces set for the next Fellowship and Associateship examinations. The task was not an easy one when viewed either from the executive or the memorizing standpoint, but Mr. Wolstenholme carried it through with conspicuous success, ending with a masterly improvisation upon a theme supplied at the time by Dr. Harding, Hon. Secretary of the R.C.O. The packed hall contained a large percentage of musicians, which made the enthusiastic applause the more gratifying to the recitalist. Mr. Wolstenholme was not the only winner of laurels on this occasion, for among the successful Fellowship candidates were Mr. J. A. Saunders—trained at the Brighton School and at the Royal Normal College—and Mr. David S. Williams, an eighteen-year-old pupil of the R.N.C., the latter crowning his achievement by carrying off the Lafontaine Prize, the first prize at these examinations. Other R.N.C. examination successes will be found in another column.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

THE Monthly Concerts, which are a regular feature of the winter season at the National Institute for the Blind, cause a great deal of pleasure to a number of blind and sighted people, who come from various institutions and workshops after their day's work.

On Tuesday, February 7th, a most entertaining evening was spent in the Armitage Hall, when Mrs. Flannery's Private Company gave a reading of Noel Coward's amusing farcical comedy, "Hay Fever."

The various parts were read with such spirit that it was quite possible to forget that scenery and costumes were lacking, and frequent peals of laughter testified to the enjoyment provided.

A well-deserved vote of thanks to Mrs. Flannery and her Company was given at the end of the play.

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE



BEFORE concluding this series of articles, I propose briefly to discuss the administration of pensions and relief in England and Wales, and to detail certain information which should be of value to all interested in this important problem.

It is by no means easy to explain the somewhat complicated system under which relief in various forms is administered in Britain. It will be convenient, however, so to discuss these matters as to bring into clear relief such aspects of the subject as are most nearly allied to each other, so that the reader may be able thereby to maintain that sequence of thought and understanding which are essential to a proper comprehension of the problem.

In this article it is not intended to discuss the various forms of assistance provided for the purposes of supplementing economic earnings; a considerable sum of money is annually expended in this way, and I estimate the amount to be at the present time quite £70,000 per annum. It is very necessary that we should have in mind this fact when the subject is under consideration. It should also be remembered that grants-in-aid of wages are steadily rising, and must continue to do so probably for some years hence, due to causes which I cannot enter upon here.

For specific purposes, then, I will attempt to define briefly the character of the relief given, the various categories through which it passes, and the type of case specially available for this form of assistance, detailing, as far as is possible, the approximate annual charges that are thereby incurred.

For our present purposes this relief may be considered under the following headings :—

(1) Moneys voted by the Imperial Parliament for the provision of pensions.
(2) Sums expended by County and County Borough Authorities under the Blind Persons Act, 1920.
(3) Expenditure incurred by the Guardians of the Poor, (*a*) by Institutional treatment, (*b*) by Out Relief.
(4) Pensions provided by private benefactions, trusts, etc.
(5) Expenditure incurred by voluntary agencies in the provision of relief, mainly temporary in character.

It is not proposed to discuss these headings quite in the form stated above, for some attention must be paid to historical development; and therefore we must refer to some extent to the chronological order in which these phases of the work have been registered. I think, however, the foregoing may fairly be said to comprise the main aspects of the subject claiming our attention, and I propose, therefore, to treat it along the lines already suggested with a view to ascertaining what can be properly learned of fundamental importance in respect of each aspect of the subject.

When we are thinking of the administration of relief and pensions in Britain, it is essential to a clear and comprehensive understanding of the subject that we should be able to appreciate the fact that there are many distinct sources from which such aid is available.

Though it is quite impossible to assign a definite date from which voluntary effort may be said to have taken rise, it is quite certain that it is by far the oldest form of assistance known to us, and to it may legitimately be attributed every enterprise emanating at a later date either from the State or from Local Authorities.

The oldest Statute, sanctioned during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, provided the necessary authority for granting relief to the blind in all cases of destitution, and from these simple beginnings a form of assistance was built up under the British Poor Law system, which, until the year 1891, made the care of the blind (in-so-far as it may be regarded as being a public responsibility) the business of the Guardians of the Poor.

In the meantime, the evolution of our voluntary system had developed with such astonishing rapidity as to yield to us an organisation which provided for the education, training, employment, and maintenance of the blind, which, though by no means adequate in its scope or perfect in its mechanism, was yet of sufficient material value as to constitute the foundation upon which we have been able safely to proceed in the process of erecting a more perfect and stable edifice.

In Britain, as in most other countries, this voluntary effort has prepared the way for more comprehensive statutory provision, but it is obvious that had it not been possible to have conducted much experimental work entirely unaided by the State, the results achieved within recent years must have been long delayed. We ought not to lose sight of the fact then that the State is only able to obtain results because of the experience we have gained in dealing with these problems, and also because of the immensity of its resources, and not necessarily because it is either more humane in its outlook or more thorough in its organisation.

All the values to which we may lay claim in our social system have their real origin in voluntaryism, and it is because we prize these fundamental principles, evolved in this way, that they are made so real, so permanent, and are of such value to us.

In England and Wales there are about 75 separate voluntary Pension Funds being administered on behalf of the Blind. Broadly speaking, the object of these investments is not to relieve cases of destitution, but rather to provide supplementary aid for those who are able to make independent efforts to earn something towards securing a livelihood, or to render help to those who have not reached such an unfortunate condition as to have been generally in receipt of Poor Law relief.

It is held by many competent authorities that when the circumstances of an applicant have become so necessitous that he is obliged to rely upon the agency of the Poor Law, he cannot be held to be a subject for voluntary assistance, but rather is he in such a condition as to conform for all practical purposes to a state of destitution, and he is, therefore, a subject for regular help from the Guardians of the Poor.

In the main this is quite the correct view to take ; for if it were otherwise such funds would in effect be entirely appropriated to the relief of the rates and taxes rather than to the succour of those whose particular circumstances warrant the giving of supplementary assistance, not necessarily the provision of permanent and entire maintenance.

In this way, then, we are led to differentiate between the objects of philanthropy and the purposes of the Poor Law. This delimitation of the area of our operations enables us to apply voluntary Pension Funds in the directions where they are capable of conferring the greatest advantages, whilst, at the same time, they may not be encroached upon for the assistance of persons who are habitually recipients of Poor Law relief.

I find that in the year 1915 the invested capital for pension purposes yielded about £50,000 per annum, and this sum was, therefore, available for distribution. Though it is known that this amount has been somewhat increased within recent years, no exact calculation has been made ; it is certain, however, that no very large bequests for pension purposes have been made during the past twelve years, and therefore the available interest cannot possibly exceed £60,000 per annum, whilst the capital investments are probably in the region of a million and a quarter sterling.

There are still too many sources of administration, but these are steadily being reduced in number, and it can be stated with absolute truthfulness that the larger and more important Trusts are being administered at the very minimum of cost. In the old days, many of these pension authorities were grievously hampered by regulations which so restricted their administration as oftentimes to make them appear ridiculous to the public ; they had been narrowly conceived, and the conditions associated with their administration lacked that breadth of vision which could never have made them the powerful agency for good which they ought to have been. It is satisfactory to know, however, that much of the restraining influence of "the dead hand" has disappeared, and the Trusts are now in the hands of people who are generally able to take a broad and enlightened view of their functions and responsibilities.

Within recent years, owing to the introduction of the State Pension, the conditions by which voluntary funds were controlled and applied have undergone radical changes in many directions, and money has been released for the assistance of the young invalid blind who, under previous prevailing circumstances, were usually unable to derive anything like the same advantage, because such funds were generally appropriated to the assistance of the older people.

Before leaving this aspect of the subject, let me briefly summarise the present situation by saying that about 75 voluntary Pension Funds exist for the blind of England and Wales ; the investments are probably somewhere in the

region of one and a quarter million sterling, and the interest accruing is about £60,000 per annum.

I have already indicated that the sources of administration are by far too numerous, and have pointed to the fact that, as a result of closer co-ordination of the funds making for consolidation and economic administration, there is little doubt that the future will see wise amalgamations by the absorption of the smaller charities into the larger Trusts : it is merely a matter of time, for everyone is conscious of the need for such a reform and anxious to see the machinery expedited.

When we think of the agency of the Poor Law as a definite means by which assistance is brought to necessitous blind people, we must strive to visualise the great problem with which this machinery is required to deal.

Non-seeing persons in England and Wales number 46,822. From 64 to 67 per cent. are so handicapped by additional physical or mental disabilities as to be unable, for the most part, to make any serious contribution in labour values towards their own maintenance. It will be obvious, then, that all such circumstances involve a serious public charge, and the bulk of the expenditure made upon such persons is borne by the agency of the Poor Law.

In Britain a large number of residential Institutions have been established under the control of the Guardians of the Poor, and many blind persons for whom it is otherwise difficult or impossible to provide find a home in these establishments ; about 3,500 persons are so accommodated.

There are no authoritative figures available showing the expenditure on this form of assistance to the blind, for they are dealt with as part only of a much larger number of people for whom such institutional treatment is deemed to be necessary, but the sum thus expended cannot be less than £260,000 per annum.

However one may hesitate to say so, the fact is that this method of treatment, in-so-far as it is made to apply to those for whom it is designed, is in the main both satisfactory and humane, and it would be difficult to devise a method of treatment which is less free from fundamental objections than that to which reference is here made.

(*To be concluded*).

"SUNSHINE HOUSE," CHORLEY WOOD

Miss Lyelee Johnstone, at present Assistant Matron of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, London, has accepted the matronship of "Sunshine House," Chorley Wood, Herts, and will commence duty towards the end of March, when the position becomes vacant by the resignation of Miss Dorothy Forsyth. Miss Johnstone, who has had wide experience, received her training at the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, N.E., and the University College Hospital, London.

She has held amongst other positions those of : Ward Sister, East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell ; Home Sister, Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea ; Sister-in-Charge, St. Marylebone Babies' Home.

During the War she served as a Sister in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service (Reserve) Overseas, and was awarded the Royal Red Cross for services in France.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
	BIOGRAPHY.	
Besant, Sir W.	Rabelais	3
	CLASSICS.	
Plato.	Euthryphro, Menexenus, and Meno	1
Tacitus.	Historiarum Libri	4
	ENGLISH LITERATURE.	
Brooke, Stopford.	Theology in English Poetry ...	4
Fowler, H. W.	The King's English	6
	HISTORY.	
Weigall, A.	Wanderings in Roman Britain	3
	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Harrison, J.	Myths of Greece and Rome	1
	MODERN LANGUAGES.	
Balliri, A. G.	Capitan Dodèro	2
Maeterlinck, M.	Trésor des Humbles	2
Rippmann, W.	Eisenhaus	2
Rostand, E.	Cyrano de Bergerac (Abrégé)	2
	POLITICAL SCIENCE.	
Carpenter, E.	England's Ideal	2
Gierke, O.	Political Theories of the Middle Age ...	5
Mowat, R. B.	European States System	1
	PSYCHOLOGY.	
Coster, G.	Psycho-Analysis for Normal People ...	2
	SCIENCE.	
Lowie, R. D.	Primitive Religion	5
	THEOLOGY.	
Hawkins, E. L.	Guide to Gospels and Acts	2
Streeter, B. H.	Restatement and Reunion	2

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

A PRELIMINARY meeting of Geranium Day organisers was held in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 15th February, Lady O'Dwyer, O.B.E., presiding. A discussion took place on the subject of cardboard emblems, which are to take the place of the silk and cotton flowers of recent years. The decision to substitute these was upheld, as it was pointed out by Miss Edith Johnston, Chief Social Organiser of the Fund, that a saving of no less than £250 would thereby be made. It was agreed that silk flowers should be on sale in the theatres and restaurants in the evenings, but that these should not be supplied to sellers during the day-time.

A pleasant interlude was provided by tea, followed by an excellent concert, the artistes being Miss Isabella Vass, L.R.A.M., soprano, who delighted those present by her rendering of some songs which she herself accompanied, and Mr. Wilden Knight, who contributed comic recitations with pianoforte accompaniments.

A very special effort is being put forward this year to make the result of Geranium Day eclipse that of former years. When it is realised that twenty-four Institutions are to benefit, we feel convinced that many helpers will rally to the cause and will communicate with Miss Johnston, at 224, Great Portland Street, as soon as possible.

Amongst those present at the Meeting were The Mayoress of Finsbury, Lady May, O.B.E., Lady Sharp, The Hon. Edith Fitzgerald, Mrs. West Russell, Miss Newbolt, and representatives of Hampstead, Paddington, Lewisham, Deptford, and other important Boroughs.

* * *

AMONG interesting events of the month of December which we were obliged to omit from our last issue was a recital given by Mr. R. Izard Coltman, in Bromley. Numbering many blind folk among his friends, Mr. Coltman not only gave a delightful programme, but made a telling and sympathetic appeal to the audience.

Blind artistes visited East Ham, Cuffley, Acton, and Whitefield's Institute during the same month, in addition to attending the Annual Dinner of the City Musical Union; during January they provided the programmes at concerts held in Dartford, Hendon, and Tooting. Either Mr. Delmage or Miss Vass have also accompanied Miss Edwards to her many Sisterhood engagements.

The Yale Blues Ball at the Crystal Palace, on January 10th, was well attended, and a "Lobby Lud" Dance on the same evening at the same place also attracted a number of dancers. Mr. Santos Casani and Miss José Lennard gave an exhibition at both dances, as did their clever pupils, the Charleston Wonder Babies. They kindly acted as judges of the dance competitions, and prizes were presented to the winners by Mrs. Curran-Gadsden.

Hornchurch "Helpers of the Blind" organised their Annual Whist Drive; this year they beat their own excellent record.

During the month Mr. Preece appealed to Brethren of six Masonic Lodges.

DINNER TO DR. RITCHIE

THE Florence Restaurant, Piccadilly, was the venue of a very pleasing function on the evening of Thursday, January 5th, when Dr. J. M. Ritchie, M.A., Ph.D., F.C.T.B., and Mrs. Ritchie were entertained to dinner by their friends and colleagues in work among the blind. The Chair was occupied by Mr. Edward Evans, Chairman of the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind, who explained that the gathering was a spontaneous expression not only at the gratification they all felt at the honour conferred on Dr. Ritchie by Edinburgh University, but of the esteem universally felt for him by those who came in contact with him in his work. Miss Garaway proposed the Toast of "Our Guests" in the most felicitous manner, and was supported by Mr. Gadsby. In a characteristic reply Dr. Ritchie deprecated the pleasant allusions to his merit while expressing his thanks for the honour. Mr. E. D. Macgregor's witty allusions to the College, in proposing "The Profession," drew from Mr. Bannister and Mr. Bennett, who replied, graceful references to the part Mr. Macgregor had played at the Ministry. Mr. Siddall proposed "The Ladies" in a humorous speech, which was very charmingly responded to by Mrs. Evans.

Music was provided by Miss Egerton-Jones, Mr. A. Greenley, Mr. Osborn, F.R.C.O., and Mr. H. G. Newell, Mus.Bac,

OBITUARY

Mr. ARTHUR LABRON LOWE, M.A., LL.B., C.B.E., F.C.T.B.

IT is with profound regret that we have to record the sudden death, on February 7th, of Mr. Arthur Labron Lowe, at the age of 66. His death removes a well-known authority on County Court procedure and practice, and a true friend of the blind. Son of the late Mr. Henry Lowe, of Birmingham, he was educated at Clifton College and Clare College, Cambridge, and was admitted a solicitor in 1886. For ten years he was managing clerk to Messrs. Johnson & Co., and later returned to this firm as a partner. He was appointed Registrar of the Birmingham County Court, a position which carries with it also the District Registrarship of the High Court of Justice. From 1910 to 1920 he was President of the Association of County Court Registrars, and from 1916 to 1918 President of the Birmingham Law Society. He received the honour of C.B.E. for his work in connection with the Red Cross Society.



THE LATE MR. A. L. LOWE, M.A., LL.B., C.B.E., F.C.T.B.

Mr. Lowe's work for the blind commenced as far back as 1894, when he became a member of the Committee of the General Institution for the Blind, Edgbaston, now known as the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, of which be became Chairman in 1902, being also one of the trustees of the Institution. In 1919 he became a member of the Central Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, under the Ministry of Health, having previously, in 1914, been elected Fellow of the College of Teachers of the Blind, " in recognition of his long, continuous and distinguished service in the education of the blind."

By his death the blind have lost a friend whose labours, on their behalf, were given unsparingly and without reward.

Mr. MILLWARD HUGHES

WE deeply regret to announce the sudden death, from heart failure, of a generous friend of blind musicians, Mr. Millward Hughes, a Director of the firm of Messrs. Ryalls & Jones, Ltd., Birkenhead, publishers of the National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers.

On the advice of his partner, Mr. Ryalls (who had observed that for a few days he had not been in his usual vigorous health), Mr. Hughes consulted a specialist, who advised him to " go slow " for a while. He retired to rest as usual on the following evening, Wednesday, December 25th, and passed away quietly in his sleep, a tranquil close to a long life of strenuous service. He was in his sixty-fifth year. Had he lived till Easter, he would have completed forty-five years as Organist and Choirmaster at a well-known Church in his native town, after which it had been his intention to relinquish this duty.

Mr. Hughes was a man of extremely handsome appearance,—greatly resembling the late King Edward. Courtly and generous to a high degree, he was never happier than when trying to advance the interests of blind musicians and students, and he took great pride in the fact that his firm were the publishers of the " National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers." Messrs. Ryalls & Jones, indeed, have long set an example to the music trade, inasmuch as in their instrumental department they have had two blind tuners, one who has been with

them for over thirty years. As their business is amongst a select *clientèle* in Cheshire and Lancashire, the fact that these two sightless tuners have been retained for so long on their staff not only shows how competent a properly trained blind tuner can be, but also what trust the firm repose in the quality of their work—surely an example to the whole music trade.

Mr. Hughes was a cultivated musician and composer (under several pen-names) of a number of graceful and useful pianoforte pieces and "teaching" *morceaux*. He was elected a few years ago as the first Honorary member of Trinity College of Music, London, in recognition of his services to that well-known academy. A man of great versatility, he was an accepted exhibitor from time to time at the Liverpool Autumn and other Exhibitions (Water Colours section). He was a prominent Freemason and had many other interests.

In his later years he showed the greatest interest in the blind musician and music student, and he unceasingly used all his influence in musical and trade circles to advance the cause of blind artistes and composers, and to secure a hearing for them and for their works whenever and wherever possible.

His loss is deplored nowhere more sincerely than at the National Institute for the Blind, and great sympathy is felt for his widow and family and for his business partner, Mr. H. I. Ryalls.

E. W.

HAMPERS FOR THE BLIND

MR. S. M. TAYLOR, South Western Counties Branch Secretary of the National Institute for the Blind, informs us that at Christmas no less than 470 hampers of Christmas fare were dispatched to the poorest of the blind in his area. He himself originated the scheme eight years ago, and from a purely local effort in 1920, when 85 hampers formed the first distribution, it has grown steadily year by year. Ample provision for individual and family needs is made in the size and number of articles placed within each hamper, and due regard is given to the requirements of the recipients. These hampers are now annually looked for, and give great joy, as can be judged by the letters received on the subject.

NEWS ITEMS

THERE are 2,655 Catholic charitable institutions in France, according to a report issued by the Central Office of the Works of Charity. Orphanages for boys and girls number 990, and there are 170 institutions for the blind or for the deaf and dumb.

WE hear that Mr. Frederick Delius, the famous British composer, has become totally blind. There appears to be some slight hope of the recovery of his sight, but the cause of the trouble is not definitely known. Recently he secured a great success in Austria and Germany with his opera, "A Village Romeo and Juliet," which was played to crowded houses. In England he is best known by his incidental music to Flecker's play, "Hassan," produced at His Majesty's Theatre in London, in 1923. Sir Thomas Beecham has referred to him as "the most important among recent British composers."

AT the last examination of the Royal College of Organists, Mr. James Saunders, a blind candidate, succeeded in gaining a Fellowship of the College. Mr. Saunders was a pupil of the Brighton School for Blind Boys for eleven years, where he commenced his musical studies under Dr. Alfred Abdey, F.R.C.O. At the age of sixteen, he proceeded, by means of a scholarship and the help of the Local Education Committee, to the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood. He left as an A.R.C.O., L.R.A.M. He has served as deputy organist of St. Mark's, Kemp Town, and as organist of All Saints', Lewes.

WHEN the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Alderman Michael Conway, in company with the Lady Mayoress and the deputy Lord Mayor, Mr. M. F. Titterington, visited the Bradford Royal Institute for the Blind, Frizinghall, last month, he was introduced to a blind man who is also deaf and dumb. To the astonishment of the visitors, Alderman Conway began to converse with him in the deaf and dumb language, which he has studied. Another object of interest was the *Braille Radio Times*. In the basket-making room each worker is provided with a pair of earphones, so that he can listen in while he does his work, one of the men reading out a portion of the day's wireless programme from the current copy of the *Braille Radio Times*.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

THE decrease practically to extinction of cases of child blindness in Bradford was mentioned by the Lord Mayor, Alderman M. Conway, when opening Odsal House, as an open-air school, last month. Odsal House has been used as a residential house for blind children, but the number of suitable cases has dwindled.

* * *

THE new and renovated workshops for the Northampton Town and County Association for the Blind were opened at Northampton last month by the Marquis of Exeter, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, who is also President of the Association. The workshops are in Gray Street, and twenty-four sightless persons are employed. Mr. F. R. Lovett, representing the Ministry of Health, was present.

* * *

THE Annual Sale of Work in connection with the Rochdale and District Society for Visiting and Instructing the Blind took place on 21st January. Various artistic and useful articles made by blind people were disposed of, and there was an excellent musical programme ; some 200 blind people and their guides were entertained to tea. During the course of the proceedings, Mr. A. Siddall remarked on the fact that there were now practically no blind beggars in the streets of Rochdale. He said that if an occasional blind beggar were to be seen, he had either sufficient income to live upon, or else he was from another district. The improvement was due to the efforts of the Blind Society in providing for the sightless and training them to tasks which contributed to independence. The Blind Persons Act, administered jointly by the Society and the Corporation, also materially helped in ministering to the needs of the blind.

* * *

THE Countess of Denbigh distributed prizes to the pupils of the East London Home and School for Blind Children, Warwick, last month. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Hackney. The Annual Report referred to the completion and opening of the new wing, and stated that the School was already reaping the benefit of the additional accommodation. During the past year there had been steady progress in all classes of work. Two pupils had gained scholarships to the Worcester College for the Blind, and Certificates of the Associated Board of the Royal College and the Royal Academy of Music School Examination had been obtained by five of the pupils. At the recent North London Musical Festival, Dorothy Middleton took first place out of 42 candidates in the open class for pianoforte playing, and second place in the local class, gaining a silver and a bronze medal. The Countess of Denbigh remarked that those in charge of the children were to be heartily congratulated, and she wished the School all happiness and success in the coming year.

* * *

THE estimates presented by the Hull Care of the Blind Committee last month showed that during the year 1927-8 the estimated expenditure was £15,200, and the probable result was £15,458. In the coming year it was anticipated that £15,452 would be required. The total for the augmentation of wages of blind workers during the past year was estimated at £4,900, and the probable result was £4,800. Allowances to indigent blind people were expected to be £9,800, but the probable result was £10,155.

* * *

THE new Leeds Institute and Training Centre for the Blind was opened on 28th February, Viscount Grey of Fallodon presiding.

Previous to the opening, the premises had already been taken possession of by blind workers. The training centre, which is under the control of the Blind Persons Act Committee, is a new venture, and those who are trained there will afterwards be employed in the workshops of the Institute. Formerly housed in buildings a part of which were converted stables, the workers now find themselves in very up-to-date workshops ; in the buildings are dining-rooms, a social room, reading rooms, and a fine library. About eighty blind persons are employed, and this number will be added to as time goes on. Brush-, mat- and basket-making, wicker-work and knitting are the trades which are being carried on, and workers are paid at Trade Union rates, with an augmentation of 18s. a week, meals being supplied at cheap rates.

A man's nature runs either to herbs or weeds ; therefore, let him seasonably water the one and destroy the other.—*Francis Bacon.*

NOTES FROM FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS

THE BLIND RELIEF ASSOCIATION, BOMBAY

THIS Association, which came into existence at the beginning of 1919, has recently issued its report for 1926, which indicates the extent and variety of its ideals and activities.

Educational work includes lectures and the distribution of literature on the nature and prophylaxis of eye diseases; dispensaries are established for treatment, which is provided free of charge to destitute people. In the case of total blindness, special training is given with a view to obtaining employment. Trained inspectors travel systematically throughout the presidency of Bombay, in order to detect and treat conjunctivitis in children, or ophthalmia neonatorum. Operable cases of ophthalmic diseases are sent to hospital or are given treatment locally; spectacles are provided without charge to the poor.

An industrial home for the blind is maintained in Bombay. In the year 1926, over 44,000 patients were dealt with by the Association, and 6,600 operations were performed. It is calculated that nearly 13,000 children were saved from blindness by prompt treatment. During the period between its inauguration and the end of 1926 the Association has helped nearly half-a-million patients, and various details of its work at the different centres are given in the report.

* * *

THE ARGENTINE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

THE *Esperanta Ligilo* has a paragraph concerning the Argentine Braille Library, which is a comparatively new institution, and has considerably increased its activities during the past year. It contains a complete Braille printing apparatus, and in July last the State decreed that the postage on Braille packages throughout the Republic should be reduced to a nominal fee.

Recently the publication of a monthly Braille Gazette was started. It is the official organ of the Library, and is called "To the Light." It contains literary and scientific articles in addition to notes concerning the blind. The public in general are actively interested in the progress of the Library, and the number of voluntary transcribers is daily increasing. It contains about 1,500 volumes and undertakes the training of those blind people who are resident in homes or hospitals, or whose age disqualifies them for instruction at the National Institute. Concerts of music and recitations take place on two Sundays in the month. The building is situated in Buenos Ayres, and is registered in accordance with the legal requirements.

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THE EDUCATION OF BLIND AMONG SEEING CHILDREN

AN article on this interesting subject is contained in a recent issue of the Russian Braille Gazette, "Life of the Blind."

In order to test the practicability of combined education for blind and seeing children, the Commissariat of Public Education has issued instructions to this effect to the blind schools at Rostov and Smolensk. Arrangements have been made in Rostov for nine blind children to receive instruction at the ordinary school, while at Smolensk five sighted children reside and study in the blind school. In both cases the results have proved eminently satisfactory, and on the success of this experiment it is hoped to extend the possibilities of opening up facilities to the blind by means of secondary education in normal surroundings. It is considered by the Commissariat of Public Education and by the All-Russia Blind Society that this project should be brought to fruition in the near future.

* * *

WE learn from the *Outlook for the Blind* that Mr. Augustine F. Massa has won admission to the New York State Bar, and to practice in the Federal Court. He is 29 years old, and has been blind since an explosion of dynamite robbed him of his sight at the age of ten. Mr. Massa received his elementary and high school education at the New York Institution for the Education of the Blind, and worked his way through Columbia College and Law School as a professional checker player, and also by selling his blood to hospitals for transfusion—a testimony to his perfect health. Mr. Massa has opened a Law Office in New York.

DR. T. R. ARMITAGE

A FEW months ago we gave a short extract from a pamphlet dealing with the work of the late Dr. T. R. Armitage. This paragraph spoke of the foundation of the well-known Braille magazine—*Progress*. The present generation is perhaps not fully aware of the work that Dr. Armitage did in the cause of the blind, and a brief account of his life, taken from the afore-mentioned pamphlet, will doubtless be of interest to many.

Dr. T. R. Armitage was born in 1824, at Tilgate Hall, in Sussex. He came of an old Yorkshire family, being the sixth of seven brothers. The family removed to Normandy, and later to Frankfort and Paris. In 1840, at the age of sixteen, he entered the Medical Department of King's College. A year's hard study told upon his eyes, which had never been strong, and it was considered desirable to remove him for two years. He returned, took his diploma as a surgeon, and, some years afterwards, the degree of M.D. at the University of London, becoming a member of the Royal College of Physicians, and practising in London as a consulting physician. In 1860 he determined to retire from his practice in order to save his remaining sight. The disease, atrophy of the retina, was arrested in a great measure and a considerable amount of serviceable sight preserved. It was in 1865 that a circumstance occurred which influenced him very greatly. When physician to the Marylebone Dispensary in 1852, he became interested in a blind man who was for some years one of his patients. This man became missionary to the blind under the Committee of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society. Dr. Armitage frequently went round with his former patient to visit the blind at their own homes, and gained a thorough insight into their condition and needs. He joined the Committee of the Society, which he later entirely re-organised. Among other changes which he effected was that of the exclusive appointment of blind men as missionaries. At that time he founded what was called the "X Y Z Fund," so named from the fact that the contributors were unknown. The aim of the Fund was to give adequate assistance in cases of temporary sickness, to start the blind in trades and to render any other assistance of which they might be in need. The Fund soon reached the sum of over £600 a year, of which Dr. Armitage gave the larger part, and to prevent the possibility of much suffering in the event of his death, he gradually endowed it up to £17,000. A closer acquaintance with the subject convinced him that one of the greatest evils from which the blind then suffered was the want of suitable education and the complete ignorance which existed in almost every school as to what was being done elsewhere. There was, at this time, not a single school in the United Kingdom which used—and only one whose manager had ever heard of—the Braille system. The methods of reading employed were left very much to chance, and whatever system the leading managers happened to fancy was adopted ; thus, in many schools the Roman letter was exclusively used, others used shorthand methods, that of Mr. Lucas being stenographic, and that of Mr. Frere phonetic. Other schools used the Moon system. All these systems are line systems, and therefore incapable of being written. Great inconvenience arose : children very often spent years in acquiring a system of reading which, when they left school, was of little use to them. And the want of agreement in different institutions was a sufficient explanation of the fact that few books were brought out, and these few (printed in characters only intelligible to the pupils of a limited number of schools) were not in general use. The Bible was printed in Moon, Frere and Lucas type, and parts of it in Roman lettering. In order to remedy this confusion, it was necessary to obtain reliable information on all that had been done for the blind in England and other countries, and then either to select those methods which seemed to be best adapted to the needs of the blind, or, when necessary, to modify, improve or supersede them. It seemed also to Dr. Armitage that many of the mistakes previously committed arose from the fact that the education of the blind had been too much in the hands of the seeing, who were apt to think that letters and signs easily recognisable by sight must also be plain to the touch. In order to avoid this danger he determined to seek the co-operation of some blind gentlemen of sufficient leisure and means to enable them to devote themselves to this work. This led, in 1868, to the formation of the " British and Foreign Blind Association for Promoting the Education and Employment of the Blind," (now the National Institute for the Blind). The Council of the Association consisted of gentlemen who were either blind, or so nearly so as to use the finger and not the eye for the purpose of read-

ing. Those members of the Council whose special duty it was to examine the different systems of embossed printing made it their business to acquire practical knowledge of all the systems on the respective merits of which they had to decide. They also consulted all the intelligent blind within their reach.

It soon became evident that all the line systems had this defect in common—that they could not be written. And it became clear that, for educational purposes, a point system would have to be adopted. The two best of these were the Braille system and a modification invented by Dr. Russ, of New York. After nearly two years of investigation the Council decided in favour of the Braille System. In January, 1870, Dr. Armitage gave a lecture at the Society of Arts, in which he pointed out the advantages of the Braille System, and insisted strongly on the necessity of a better musical training for the blind. At that time, about 30 per cent. of the male pupils who had passed through the Paris School were able to maintain themselves fully by the profession of music, whereas, as far as could be ascertained, only one-half per cent. of the pupils who had received their education at English Schools were able to live by their profession. The inference was, that if one of the existing Institutions for the Blind could not be reformed, so as to give a more suitable education, a new one would have to be founded.

Shortly after the delivery of this lecture, a blind gentleman, Mr. F. J. Campbell, called on Dr. Armitage, who at once saw that his visitor possessed most of the qualities required in the director of a musical school for the blind. The project was discussed, and Mr. Campbell consented to organise the work, Dr. Armitage supplying the necessary funds, by himself giving the larger part and raising most of the rest among his friends. The site selected was in the immediate neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace. About two years later a better one was obtained, and here the Royal Normal College still stands.

A BLIND MAN'S INVENTION

FASHIONED on the lines of a monoplane, a new type of kite has been introduced by Perry T. W. Hale, all-American football star of 1900. who was blinded in an explosion some twelve years ago. It requires no tail and is said to be extremely popular with kite enthusiasts.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

E. W. Austin Memorial READING COMPETITION

IT is hoped to hold the eighth Meeting of the E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition at the National Library, on Saturday, 5th May, or 12th May.

Unseen passages will be read, and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression, as in the past.

Intending competitors should send in their names to the Secretary, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, as early as possible, in order that detailed arrangements for the Competition may be made.

It is intended to divide the adult competitors into two classes :—

"A" Those who learnt Braille type before the age of 16.

"B" Those who learnt Braille type after the age of 16.

(The Class "B" winner of previous years to be eligible only for Class "A" this year).

It should be explained that the standard of reading expected in this Class is not so high as in Class "A." No contest will be held unless there are at least four competitors.

The Junior competitors are also divided into two classes :—

1. Under 12 years of age.
2. Between the ages of 12 to 16.

A class for the reading of Moon will be held if sufficient entries are received, but there must be at least four competitors.

Competitors when sending in their names should state in which class they are entering.

The Committee consists of :—W. H. Dixson, Esq., M.A., E. Le Breton Martin, Esq., B. MacDonald, Esq., H. Royston, Esq., J. M. Rowley, Esq., Miss C. Till (Winner of 1927 Competition), Miss D. A. Pain.

MISS O. I. PRINCE, *Secretary*.

SPEAKING at a Conference of the Northern Counties Association at Manchester, Mr. F. R. Lovett said that since 1921 there had been a decrease in the number of blind children under sixteen years of age, from 2,865 to 2,812 in 1927. In 1921 there were registered 34,000 blind adults, but this number had increased in 1927 to over 46,000, or an increase of 34 per cent. He thought that perhaps this was largely due to better registration.

			s.	d.
	FICTION—			
7619-7621	"Little Women," by Louisa M. Alcott. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 3 vols.	per vol.	8	9
7622-7625	"Rough Justice," by C. E. Montague. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 4 vols. ..	per vol.	8	9
7626-7628	"Sanctuary," by Blanche Hardy. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 3 vols. ..	per vol.	9	0
	MAPS—			
8240	Guides to Maps of England and Wales. Grade 2, Intermediate size, Interlined		3	0
	PHILOSOPHY—			
7631-7632	A History of Freedom of Thought, by J. B. Bury, M.A., F.B.A. Grade 2, Large size, interpointed, Cloth Boards, 2 vols.	per vol.	8	6
	POETRY—			
8152	"A Cowboy's Prayer," by Charles Badger Clark. Grade 1, Pocket size, Interlined, Pamphlet ..		0	3
	SCIENCE—			
8094-8097	The Elements of Radio-Communication (with Diagrams), by O. F. Brown, M.A. (E.S.B. Fund) Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 4 vols.	per vol.	8	9

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
LIST OF ADDITIONS
February, 1928.

FICTION.	Vols.
*Brock, Lynn. Deductions of Colonel Gore ...	3
Chandler, Christine. Right St. John's	4
Cullum, R. Way of the Strong	8
Mackail, Denis. Greenery Street	5
*Mitchison, Naomi. Cloud Cuckoo Land	3
*Montague, C. E. Rough Justice	4
Ostrander, Isabel. Tattooed Arm	4
Pearse, Mark Guy. Pretty Ways o' Providence and other Stories	2
*Stevenson, R. L. Dynamiter	3
Wallace, E. Debt Discharged	3
MISCELLANEOUS.	
*Herbert, A. P. Light Articles Only	4
Longridge, G. Spiritualism and Christianity ...	1
Poe, E. A. Poems	2
Sackville-West, V. The Land: A Poem	1
Turton, W. H. (Compiler). Truth of Christianity: Being an examination of the more important arguments for and against believing in that Religion	7
Upcott, J. D. Sir Francis Drake and the beginnings of English Sea Power	2
MOON.	
Barrie, Sir J. M. Little Minister	8
Wells, H. G. History of Mr. Polly	5

*Produced by the National Institute for the Blind.

In order to prevent disappointment and ensure the delivery of extra consignments of books from the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1, for the Easter holidays, readers are asked to give as long notice as possible that extra books will be required, so that they may be despatched.

O. I. Prince,
Secretary & Librarian.

THE BLIND SENATOR'S GUIDE

Lux, a black and tan German police dog, who used to lead blind war veterans safely in Germany, has become an honorary member of the United States Senate. His job is to guide Senator Schall of Minnesota, blinded years ago, about the Capitol Building and anywhere else he wants to go. A special seat was built for Lux at the feet of his master.

The police dog was received by Senator Schall from J. L. Sinykin of Minneapolis, who got the animal in Germany, following a wide search for a trained dog which could replace the attendant who usually guides the blind Senator.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND.

WANTED, Lady Home Teacher and Visitor (Sighted) for welfare work amongst the blind; age 25-40. Applicants should hold the Certificate of the College of Teachers of the Blind, or be prepared to obtain the same. Salary £130-£156 according to qualifications. Applications, marked "Teacher," giving full particulars and copies of two testimonials, to be received not later than 14th March, 1928, by the Hon. Secretary, 7 Cobden Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

The American Foundation for the Blind are anxious to obtain the following back numbers of the Beacon, for which they offer 9d. per copy:—

1917—January, March, May, July, August.
1919—April, June, August, September.
1924—July, December.

Will readers willing to supply these communicate (without sending the copies in the first instance) with the Magazine Department, National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the February Numbers)

Progress.—The Passing of Thomas Hardy—How Talk began—The Men who Cluck—The Romance of a Hymn—The Blind set Free (Poem)—Obituary: The Rev. H. G. Rosedale; The Hon. Mrs. Campion—Matters of the Moment—Correspondence—Our Prize Competitions—Advertisements—Changes in the Law—Whitaker—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page—The Three Albums—New Jobs for Old. Supplements: "Progress" Chess; Home Occupations: "Bobby" Tunic Suit; Announcements. Administration of Relief and Pensions (concluded). (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—Thomas Hardy's Novels—Life in the Stars—A New French Interpretation of Disraeli—What is "The Novel"?—National Library for the Blind—Thomas Carlyle: An Unpublished Letter. Supplements. Announcements. The Administration of Relief and Pensions. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Rutland Boughton—Musical Successes—Notes and News Concerning the Blind—Correspondence—An Overcrowded Profession—Tuners' Column—The "Little Organ-Book" of Bach. Supplements: Braille Music Reviews. Announcements. The Administration of Relief and Pensions; Automatic Telephone Code. Inset: Music Coupons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Physiotherapy in the Treatment of Chronic Rheumatic Diseases—New Health Lessons—The Annual Meeting (continued). Supplements: "Massage Journal" Inset: The Annual Meeting (concluded from Journal); Official Reports of the First Dominion Conference of the New Zealand Trained Masseurs' Association, held in Christchurch; Correct Posture; Tennis Leg. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Channels of Blessing.—Utilising the Incomprehensible—Words in Season to the Weary—Notes on Hebrews—A Cry in the Dark—How to be a Perfectly Miserable Christian—The Wong Family—Gleanings—Building a Breakwater—Explanation of a Text—Thanksgiving—Prayer Union—B.M.U. Lending Library. Inset: "Channels of Blessing." Supplement: The First Missionary Journey Continued; The Lesson Illustrated.

Santa Lucia.—Treasures of a King's Tomb at Ur—Englishwoman Alone in Africa—The Men of the Trees—Church Rises from the Sea—Gabriel Samara (concluded)—A Tame Nautilus—Our Terrible Cousin—The Botanist in the Jungle—A Bunch of Flowers—An Awkward Moment in the Clouds—The Seals' Annual Census—Thought for the Month—How "Sandy" was Trapped—Soothing the Savage Breast—The Heroic Spirit—Notice—The New Serial.

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Kinetics and Kinematics—News Items—The Poets' Corner—The Year 1920, and After—Favourite Quotations—International Notes—Advertisements and General Notices—Legal Notes—Obituary: Rev. H. G. Rosedale. Supplements: Literary: "John Ruskin"; "A Yorkshire Citadel"; Rapid Reviews: New Books in Brief; Music: Handel and "Messiah," by Newman Flower; Coupons: "Sanctuary," Song by T. J. Hewitt; "Shalimar," Song-Waltz by H. Nicholls. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Moon Magazine.—The House of Heavy Shutters—The Shepherd's Hoard—A Burglar in Birdland—Robin Adair—Who Discovered America?—Britain's Tallest Chimney—Deaf-Blind Helpers' League.

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Résumé of Programmes Broadcast from all Stations of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1928

APRIL

Vol. XII No. 136

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

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8398	" Come live with me " (Baritone Air from " Semele "), by Handel, D, Compass A, to D′, pocket size	2	0
8399	" The Low-Backed Car " (arr. by Herbert Hughes), F, Compass C to F′, pocket size	2	0
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The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

			s.	d.
2701-2707	" Midwinter," by John Buchan, 7 vols. (Limited Edition)	per vol.	12	0
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BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

			s.	d.
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8106-8115	Heath's Practical French Grammar, Section One, by W. H. Fraser, B.A., and J. Squair, B.A. Grade 2, Intermediate size, Interpointed, 10 vols.	per vol.	5	3
8303-8307	Scouting for Boys (with Diagrams), by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Bart. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 5 vols.	per vol.	9	0

Continued on page 3 of Cover

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XII.—NO. 136. APRIL, 1928. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND



THE Seventh Report of this Committee has come to hand. It starts with a summary of the progress made in regard to the administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, during the seven years since the Act came into operation. The number of blind persons in England and Wales between the ages of 50 and 70 in receipt of pensions, as provided for in Section I of the Act, is shown in the following table :—

31st March,	1921	7,826
,, ,,	1922	9,107
,, ,,	1923	9,921
,, ,,	1924	10,625
,, ,,	1925	12,024
,, ,,	1926	13,663
,, ,,	1927	14,563

There are, according to the latest returns, 17,232 registered blind persons between the ages of 50 and 70 years, so that no less than 84 per cent. of those within the eligible age are receiving benefit under this section of the Act; the remaining 16 per cent. are, presumably, excluded owing to the possession of other means. It is computed that the annual value of pensions granted under this section is approximately £364,000.

Schemes for promoting the welfare of the blind under Section I of the Act have been submitted by all the 146 local authorities concerned, have been approved by the Minister, and are in operation. The Committee report that they are satisfied that the progress made in regard to the provision for the blind under the Act has been distinctly encouraging, and that the position of the sightless to-day in all areas is much more satisfactory than it was seven years ago. The rapid growth of the provision for the blind made by the authorities under the Act is indicated by the following statement of expenditure incurred, or estimated to be incurred, by local authorities :—

1921-2	£14,671
1922-3	£47,106
1923-4	£71,805
1924-5	£102,910
1925-6	£135,946
1926-7	£173,828

The Committee again emphasises the fact that the introduction of State and rate-aided services for the blind has not had the effect, feared in some quarters, of reducing voluntary subscriptions and donations, or of alienating personal voluntary service on behalf of the blind, the interest and sympathy of the public having been not only fully sustained, but actually increased. During the financial year from 1921-2 to 1926-7, grants in respect of services provided for the welfare of the blind by voluntary agencies and local authorities, were distributed by the Ministry of Health as follows :—

1921-2	£69,886
1922-3	£75,445
1923-4	£83,470
1924-5	£94,970
1925-6	£103,994
1926-7	£112,510

Home Workers' schemes are stated to be steadily developing, and at a number of institutions active steps are being taken to increase the workshop accommodation.

Tabular statements are appended to the report, showing the number and classifications of the blind in England and Wales as at 31st March, 1927. Comparisons with previous returns read as follows :—

Date of Return.	*Blind Population.*	*Ratio to General Population.*
1919 ..	25,840 ..	1 : 1,451
1920 ..	30,785 ..	1 : 1,219
1921 ..	34,894 ..	1 : 1,086
1923 ..	36,518 ..	1 : 1,052
1925 ..	42,140 ..	1 : 923
1927 ..	46,822 ..	1 : 835

There is reason to believe that the apparent increase in the total number of blind persons is due to better registration, and not to an actual increase of blindness. The operation of the Blind Persons Act has led to the discovery of a large number of blind persons hitherto unknown, and it is interesting to read that the granting of free wireless licences to the blind has led to the discovery of a considerable number of blind persons who were unregistered. Of the present blind population the largest proportion is stated to have become blind in the first year of life, and the next largest between 60 and 70 years of age. The number of employed persons registered in 1927 was 9,159, compared with 8,235 in 1923 and 8,840 in 1925. In the period under review 635 were unemployed compared with 734 in 1925 and 880 in 1923. There were under training in 1927, 1,704 blind persons, compared with 1,246 in 1923 and 1,621 in 1925. There were 31,667 unemployable blind persons in 1927, compared with 20,759 in 1923 and 26,826 in 1925.

Reporting on the active steps which are being taken in different parts of the country to increase the facilities for employment in workshops, the Committee express satisfaction that in some workshops new industries have been introduced. These include the manufacture of composition knitting needles and stair-rods, brick and tile making, and the threading of nuts on valve stems. The Ministry of Health and the Board of Education have recognised these industries for grant purposes.

Approved home-workers' schemes to the number of 58 are now in operation in England and Wales, embracing from 1,400 to 1,500 workers, and there are only a very few areas in the country not covered by such schemes. The number of blind persons employed in workshops is approximately 2,400. The system of augmentation of wages is widely diverse in various districts. In their fourth and fifth reports the Committee recommended that the earnings of home-workers should be augmented on a scale providing for a flat rate payment not exceeding 10s. a week. In a number of schemes this method has been adopted, but the present Committee point out that they are not yet in a position to say whether any modification of this method recommended by their predecessors should be made. A Conference is to be held shortly of those interested in the management of home-workers' schemes, when fresh information may lead to the formulation of a more comprehensive and scientific system of augmentation for this class of worker.

With reference to the employment of blind persons in ordinary factories and workshops, the Committee note the establishment of the Research and Appointments Department of the National Institute for the Blind, in co-operation with the National Institute of Industrial Psychology. From the preliminary report on the work of this department, the Committee state that a number of blind persons have already been successfully placed in ordinary factories and workshops. They are convinced that, by patient endeavour, a new avenue of employment can be opened up for the blind in this way, and they trust that voluntary agencies will give any assistance to the National Institute in prosecuting their researches further.

Further progress on behalf of the unemployable blind is reported, both in regard to the development of social welfare services and the formulation of schemes of financial assistance. It is urged that a return should be made of the general and the financial circumstances of persons included in this category, in order that further provision be made for them. We learn from the report that the Ministry are prepared to extend their hostel grant to cases where a number of blind persons reside in hostels primarily intended for seeing persons, providing the general conditions of grant are observed.

Feeling convinced that a mutual exchange of experiences in regard to the blind between various nations would be both interesting and helpful, the Committee recommended that the

Ministry of Health should co-operate with the Scottish Board of Health in regard to making enquiries respecting the care and treatment of the blind in a number of British colonies and foreign countries. The two departments have already approached the International Office of Public Hygiene with a view to enquiries being made by that body or the League of Nations.

In view of the importance of blind girls receiving adequate domestic training, it is reported that the Board of Education are now considering the whole question in conjunction with the responsible authorities of school and training institutions.

A scheme has been prepared by the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind for the institution of an examination for craft teachers in schools and training institutions. This scheme, which has been submitted to the consideration of the Advisory Committee by the Board of Education, provides for examination in—

(1) Technical ability in verious trades ;
(2) Ability to teach ;
(3) Educational fitness ;
(4) Braille, and
(5) Deaf and dumb alphabet ;

and it is proposed that craft teachers should be obliged to pass the examination within two years of their appointment. While approving the proposal in principle, the Committee informed the Board of Education that they considered the immediate imposition of the examination would be premature. They deem it desirable in the first instance that any examination for craft teachers should be conducted on a voluntary basis, and they express the hope that the College will be encouraged to take this course.

With regard to the question as to whether it would be desirable for the Ministry of Health to exercise some power of veto over the appointments made by institutions for the blind of their chief executive officers, the Committee do not think it would be practicable or desirable to interfere in this respect. Nevertheless, they urge committees to consider the advisability of advertising all salaried vacancies of this kind, and, in making their selection of candidates, to have regard to the duties required of a superintendent or secretary in the matter of supervision of administration, industrial developments, education, vocational training and general welfare of the blind. They also recommend that, before making such appointments, committees should consult the Ministry, and (where education and training are carried on) the Board of Education also.

The Committee have informed the Minister of Health that they are opposed to the principle of the Optical Practitioners (Registration) Bill.

Expressing their appreciation of the expansion of the home teaching service, they report that there are at present in England and Wales 230 sighted and 148 blind or partially blind home-teachers, as compared with less than 100 in 1919, when State assistance was first given for this service. Of these 378 home-teachers, 187 have already obtained the Home Teaching Certificate of the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind, 72 have still to obtain it, while 119 are exempt because they were appointed prior to the 1st April, 1923.

Full details were given in the last Advisory Committee Report of the measure of co-operation agreed upon by this Committee and the National Institute for the Blind, with a view to the reduction of friction and overlapping in the matter of voluntary collections for the blind. The Institute appointed on their Council 17 persons nominated by the Advisory Committee, who express satisfaction at learning that the enlarged Council is now fully operative, and that it is actively engaged upon the revision of the administration and machinery of the Institute. The report goes on to say : " It is a source of satisfaction that there now exists in most parts of the country a much more accommodating spirit in regard to the claims of national and local services upon voluntary funds, which we hope will lead to the early operation of more joint collecting agreements . . . . . We would urge all local Agencies which have not yet taken any steps to enter into negotiations with the National Institute regarding collections, to do so as early as possible . . . . . While the arrangements agreed upon by the National Institute and the Advisory Committee were primarily intended to deal only with co-operation between local agencies and the Institute they are, in our opinion, sufficiently elastic to permit of other agencies conducting national or semi-national services being brought in, and we would earnestly recommend these other agencies to consider whether it would not be advisable for them to join with the National Institute in making local collecting agreements." Appreciation is also expressed of the manner in which the National Institute have supported and assisted the Committee in their efforts to promote a better understanding between local and national interests.

THE HOME TEACHER IN AMERICA

A RECENT issue of the *Outlook for the Blind* contains an article by Miss Kate Foley, of the California State Library, who has had valuable experience as a home teacher. Her remarks, some of which apply more particularly to circumstances which obtain in America, are, however, also of general interest, and we quote those likely to appeal to our readers :—

All home teachers of the blind, she asserts, " are really the ' general practitioners of the service, called upon to diagnose almost every sort of malady and administer every kind of medicine.' With regard to the training of the child of pre-school age, this should begin at the earliest possible moment. Unfortunately, parents rarely understand the importance of this early training, being too immersed in their own sorrows to realise that their attitude, their self-pity, may prove a greater handicap to the child than blindness itself.

" The home teacher," she continues, " should request hospitals, clinics, and the medical profession generally, to report every blind child, even very young babies. When the child is a year old, she should visit the parents and insist that they encourage the baby to creep, walk and act like its seeing brothers and sisters. I was asked to see a blind baby, eighteen months old, and found that it had never been allowed to lie on the floor, creep or walk, because the mother had feared it would get hurt. I promptly secured what is known as a ' baby walker,' and in a very short time the child scorned help, and walked alone about the room, learning to avoid furniture after colliding with it a few times. The child is three now, and plays with other children, and is a healthy, happy little girl. In a year or so I shall insist that the mother train her to feed and dress herself, string wooden beads, put pegs in a board, and commit to memory some child rhymes. In this way she will escape the many mannerisms of the blind child . . . . . She will learn to dress herself by performing the same service for her doll ; she will romp and play with other children, accepting bumps and bruises as part of the game, run, skip, and join in all other harmless sports, thus acquiring that freedom of movement, muscular co-ordination and fearless bearing so necessary if she is to cope successfully with the difficulties awaiting her. Her toys will be chosen to instruct as well as to amuse ; always with a view to assisting in the muscular development and intelligent use of her fingers—a very essential equipment. By the time the child is old enough to be sent to school, she will be sturdy and happy, eager to take her place with other blind children, fearless and confident of her ability to care for herself."

Miss Foley then goes on to dwell on the unwillingness of some parents to send their children away to school, and to insist on the importance of sending them there, illustrating her remarks by incidents which have occurred in her experience. In California there is an amendment to the Public School Law, making compulsory the attendance of every blind or partially blind child of sufficient mental or physical capacity, unless excused by a physician. The writer urges the necessity for close co-operation between the home teacher and the school for the blind. " The former," she says, " should be sure that a child is eligible before making application for its admission.

Having stressed the point that children with too much vision to be sent to a school for the blind should go to the sight-saving classes which are established in America, Miss Foley goes on to talk of the children who, on account of some additional physical handicap, cannot be sent to school. " When these children are not close enough to receive oral instruction, I send the lessons to their homes, and the parents help them, thus providing mental stimulus and occupation for these invalid little ones." She proceeds to give examples of such cases, also of cases in which the home teacher can be of assistance to the student in private or high schools. "And so," she concludes, " there is much the home teacher can do to help with the children of pre-school age and those who, for various reasons, are unable to attend schools for the blind. It is within her power to inspire parents with confidence, and awaken them to their responsibility to their handicapped children. Someone has truly said, ' He who can plant courage in the human soul is the best physician,' and it is the privilege of the home teacher to train the little ones to be self-reliant and self-helpful, encouraging each success and analysing each failure, and, above all, to fill their young hearts with the desire to be just like their seeing companions. When this is accomplished the childish feet are planted firmly on the difficult road that stretches its weary length ahead.

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

Mr. GEORGE CLIFFORD BROWN, M.A., F.R.Hist.S.



THE unique and progressive School known as Worcester College for the Blind owes so much to the man who has been its "Head" for the last fifteen years, that an account of his life of necessity includes much of the life history of the School.

Born in 1879, in the Isle of Wight, Mr. George Clifford Brown comes of a Yorkshire father (member of a well-known northern family of ship-builders and master-mariners) and a Dorsetshire mother. He was educated at Lymington, at the now defunct Solent College, whence he matriculated in the University of London at the age of sixteen. In due course he took honours degrees of B.A. and M.A., and the L.C.P. Diploma in the Theory and Practice of Education. He first specialised in mathematics, and later in history, spending two years as a research student at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He has also done a considerable amount of research work at the British Museum, the Record Office and the Libraries of Oxford and Cambridge, transcribing unpublished MSS. of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, and investigating the Town Charters of Edward II. According to his own report, he was a moderately good all-round athlete, taking part in representative cricket, association football, and heavy-weight boxing. In view of his subsequent work at Worcester, it was indeed fortunate that he was better "on and in the water than on land." "I was born and lived all my early life within fifty yards of the sea, and cannot remember when I could not swim. I can remember as quite a child going for a swim after breakfast, and returning for breakfast as one might go for a walk. I raced a lot, both long distance and sprints, played water polo, and was well-known as a high diver."



Mr. George Clifford Brown, M.A., F.R.Hist.S.

In 1902, he married Catherine Harvey Robertson, the elder daughter of Mr. W. C. E. Smith, M.I.C.E., the Managing Director of the Delta Railway in Egypt. There are four children, three sons and one daughter, all of whom have been of great help to Mr. Brown in his work at the College. He looks upon it as a happy omen that the year 1927, which was the Diamond Jubilee of the College, and the twenty-fifth year of the present buildings, was also the year of his Silver Wedding, and the coming of age of his eldest son. After working as senior mathematical master in various schools, he became at the age of twenty-six the Headmaster of Tollington School, Finsbury Park, where there were some two hundred boys, of whom about twenty were boarders in his own house. During his headmastership the School had a remarkable run of success, both in examinations and in athletic and chess competitions. Of 371 boys entered for public examinations, 343 passed, 61 obtained honours, 19 first or second places in the United Kingdom, and 207 distinctions; five first prizes and three second prizes were obtained in examinations which were open to the whole Kingdom. Mr. Brown is convinced that these results were largely due to his

adoption of the so-called New Method in teaching, of which he has always been an advocate. By abolishing marks in the Upper School, and reducing punishment to a minimum, "we were," he says, "able to devote the whole energies of the School to the work for which schools exist."

At the end of 1912, his youngest son, then aged eighteen months, was seriously ill, and the family were obliged to seek more congenial surroundings for him than those of North London. Mr. Brown had almost made up his mind to accept an important post in Guatemala City, under the Guatemalan Government, when he was given the opportunity of seeing the delightful situation of Worcester College, of which, after some persuasion from his wife, he accepted the headmastership. When he took up his residence there in January, 1913, he found the School practically empty. During the course of the year a few boys presented themselves, and there were soon about a dozen pupils. Fortunately, he had the help of Mr. J. S. Cooper, whose unostentatious but invaluable work for generations of blind schoolboys is, says the "Head," as deeply appreciated by them as it is unknown to the general public. He was also fortunate in that, during his second term at the College, there were four boys whose general all-round excellence provided material which any schoolmaster might welcome. The willingness of these four pupils—T. H. Tylor, R. H. H. Allison, W. V. Miede, and W. R. Wilkinson—to work with him in improving methods of education, and in finding games and pastimes in which blind boys might excel, has been largely responsible, not only for putting the College on its feet, but for raising its numbers and achievements to a scale never achieved before. This quartet formed the first blind racing crew to venture on the water, both in tub boats and in light racing boats, and formed the backbone of the troup of newly-formed scouts and the pick of the gymnastic squad, and of runners and jumpers. One of them set such a high standard for the newly-formed chess club that practically ever since then the College has occupied a unique position in the world of chess.

From the beginning, Mr. Brown saw that class-work, except in certain subjects, such as drawing and chemistry, could be brought up to a high "sighted" standard. This object has been attained, as the many results in public examinations show. The staff, which in 1913, consisted of himself and Mr. Cooper, has now grown to nearly four times the size, and specialisation is possible. In 1915, he persuaded the Governors to allow the College to be inspected by the Board of Education, and, as a result, it was recognised as an "efficient Secondary School," and now obtains a Treasury Grant. During the War the number of boys had grown to twenty-three, the maximum number for which the buildings provided. Fortunately, the neighbouring house was in the market, and through the generosity of the National Institute for the Blind, the College was able to acquire it as the Headmaster's house. This permitted forty boys to be taken, and, as there are now forty-four pupils, the need for still further extension is obvious. With the help of the boys, Mr. Brown was able to improve some of the school apparatus, and amongst other things, he has devised a graph board, which enables them to do algebraical and trigonometrical graphs, correct to one twenty-fifth of an inch. Considering it desirable that the boys should have some idea of the subject of book-keeping, he devised a book-keeping frame which allows double-entry book-keeping to be done thoroughly in a small compass.

Games form an important part of the Worcester College curriculum. In the beginning he looked round for something that could be done to high "sighted" standard; basket-ball, cricket, and stilt-fighting he recognised as good fun, but not good enough for regular school games. "My choice," he says, "was soon narrowed down to rowing—the real thing—swimming, and chess. In these, I vowed to myself, my boys should some day surpass the sighted schools. Running, field sports, and gymnastics are all good, and can be brought very nearly to sighted standards, but in none of these could I foresee the possibility of competing on level terms with the larger public schools." So they set out to excel in running and chess first, and swimming as soon as they should be able to get a bath. The College rowing he regarded as his own special ewe lamb. At first he had to work at it almost alone, and in inferior boats. "On most half-holidays I sat in the stern, coaching four after four from two o'clock sometimes to nine, with the five o'clock crew bringing down my bus-man's tea in a thermos."

Mr. G. F. Mowatt, who joined the governing body, besides improving the College finances generally, gave to the Boat Club the full bene-

fits of an oarsman's enthusiasm; now the College owns one of the best boathouses on the Severn, filled with eights, fours, pairs, and scullers. On half-holidays generally, and more particularly at their two days' regatta in July, the river is filled with Worcester College craft. In the 1926 regatta, for instance, there were eleven fours of present and old boys actually racing, besides two eights, one of which defeated their sighted opponents. It was in 1913, when the Boat Club was founded by Mr. Brown, that for the first time rowing was taken up as a serious sport for the blind. From then until the present day immense progress has been made. In 1913, two pair-oar crews were trained in tubs, and the next year two races were engaged in. And so the progress continued until, in 1924, the first eight rowed at Henley Regatta. The College has sent crews to regattas at ten different places, and has rowed against fours from schools which include Cheltenham College and Clifton College, and has also rowed, amongst others, against the Eiresians and the St. Dunstan's officers. Mr. Guy Nickalls, who opened the new boathouse, afterwards became Governor of the College, and has given the Boat Club the invaluable benefit of his unique knowledge and experience. When the bath was opened, a College Swimming Club was formed; this has held two sports at which, besides swimming off races for a Championship Cup and a Junior Cup, and other School Events, it has held a Three-Event Competition against other clubs.

Chess soon reached a high standard. Mr. Brown himself is what is technically known as "first-class amateur strength," and this season he holds the Championship of Worcestershire. After the War he took charge of the County Chess Association, in order to give that body the benefit of the College's enthusiasm, and to make the College the centre of the County chess, a position which it now holds. Since its inception in 1913, the Chess Club has had an almost uniformly successful career. In seventy-eight matches against other Public Schools, seventy-four have been won and four lost. The College holds the Championship Shield for the Worcestershire Public Schools, having held it eight times in the last eleven years. The First Team won the Senior Clubs' Championship of the County in 1925, and the Second Team won the Junior Clubs' Championship in 1926. During the last four years an annual match has been played between Oxford University Chess Club and the College past and present. Every year one of the great Masters is invited to the College to play against the boys and their guests, recent visitors having included Dr. Alekhine, Mr. Maroczy. Mr, Kostich, Mr. Yates, Sir George Thomas, and Senor Capablanca. The boys are often selected to play for the County, and the Old Boys have gained many distinctions, three having represented Oxford University against Cambridge.

It is now fifteen years since Mr. Brown took up his duties at the College, and, as he says, his whole life has been identified with it since then. Apart from the College work, he has endeavoured, as far as was possible, to interest himself in the general welfare of the blind. He was one of the founders of the Worcestershire Association, and has been a member of its Committee since its inception. He is also on the Committee of the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind, and recently occupied the position of Chairman of the Midland Branch. He is a frequent contributor to periodicals and newspapers, and has addressed many meetings and conferences on the subject of the Higher Education of the Blind. At present he is devoting a considerable amount of his time to the subject of the employment of the educated blind boy. This is a most pressing problem, which he is confident can be solved in the same way that other problems have been solved during the course of his fifteen years' mastership.

The College, both at work and at play, is now highly efficient. A good sighted standard has been reached in study as well as in rowing, chess, and swimming. In some subjects the College has even taken the lead. Dancing, which Mr. Brown introduced in 1913 with a full-dress ball, which is repeated every Christmas, and was at first looked upon somewhat askance by other public schools as an undesirable innovation, has now been adopted by them. The College was also the pioneer in scouting for the blind. In 1914, their band of Scouts undertook a memorable tour on which they were presented to the King by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, were received by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, and were entertained at the House of Commons.

Worcester College and all that belongs to it colours Mr. Brown's life so vividly that it hardly seems possible to use the words "hobby" and "relaxation" where he is concerned without bringing in its name. His

success is due very largely—shall we say entirely?—to the fact that he is not an unapproachable disciplinarian, but enters wholeheartedly into the life of the pupils. In spite of his very extensive learning, he can throw off the "schoolmaster" at will, and prove himself a real boy among the boys.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

CLASSICS.

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
Euripides.	Medea (Translated by Gilbert Murray) ..	1

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Church, R. W.	Spenser	2
Sampson, G. (Edited by).	Cambridge Readings in Literature	3

HISTORY.

Skemp, A. R.	Francis Bacon	2

LAW.

Dicey, A. V.	Law and Opinion	7

MODERN LANGUAGES.

Graham, J., and Oliver, G. A. S.	German Commercial Practice. Part I	3
Musset, A. de.	Nouvelles	6

PHILOSOPHY.

Jacks, L. P.	Responsibility and Culture	1
Ross, W. D.	Aristotle	5

POLITICAL SCIENCE.

Hearnshaw, F. J. C.	Development of Political Ideas	1

SCIENCE.

Fleure, H. J.	Races of Mankind	1
Hutt, C. W.	Crowley's Hygiene of School Life ..	6
Huxley, J.	Stream of Life	1
Lowie, R. H.	Primitive Society	7

THE Public Health Committee of the Birmingham City Council have had under consideration the question of making increased payments to adult unemployable blind persons in the City, who number about 900. After conferences with the representatives of Smethwick and West Bromwich Corporations, the Committee have agreed (subject to the approval of the City Council) to make provision whereby the incomes of all blind adult unemployable persons in the City are brought up to the sum of 20s. per week, regardless of the income of any other member of the blind person's family or household.

YOU cannot stop the birds of sadness from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building their nests in your hair.—*Proverb.*

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

MR. W. McG. EAGAR has been appointed Secretary and Manager of the National Institute for the Blind, in succession to Sir Alexander Diack, K.C.I.E., C.V.O., C.B.E., who will shortly resign on account of ill-health.

Mr. Eagar, formerly Exhibitioner of Exeter College, Oxford, and Squire Scholar, has had a wide experience in social work and organisation. He is closely identified with a number of voluntary bodies, being ex-President of the Federation of Residential Settlements, Vice-President of the Federation of London Working Boys' Clubs, and a Member of the Council of the National Playing Fields Association, of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, and of the National Council of Social Service.

Since leaving Oxford, he has lived in East and South-East London, and has been Secretary and Chairman of Care Committees and Juvenile Employment Committees, and Warden of the Oxford and Bermondsey Clubs.

Before the War he was appointed Assistant Director of the Borstal and Central Associations by the Home Office, and after serving with the R.F.A. in France, became Inspector of the London Housing Board. Later he became Secretary of the Garden Cities Association, and was engaged in this work when Mr. Lloyd George invited him to organise his Land Enquiry. In addition to the Land Enquiry, he carried through the Liberal Industrial Enquiry, the report of which appeared in February, and as General Secretary of the Land and Nation League was responsible for bringing that body into existence and building it up.

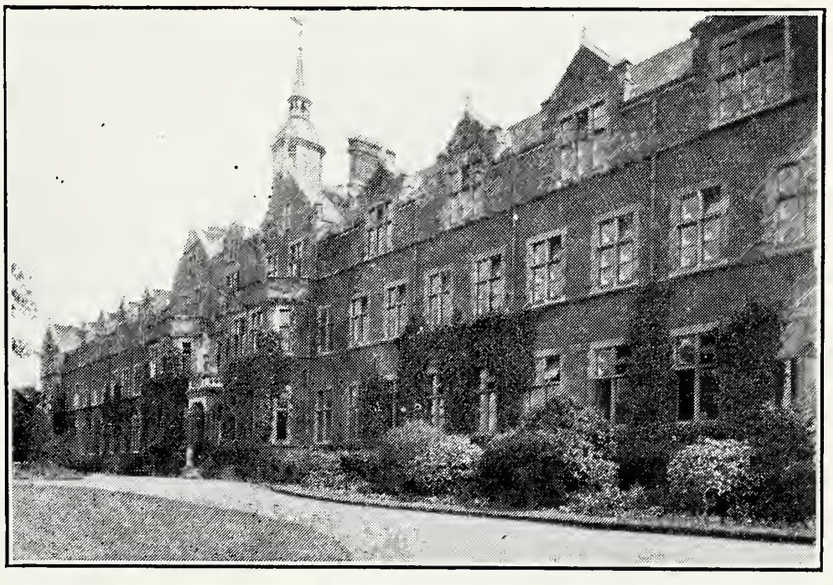
"GERANIUM DAY," the big annual appeal of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, will take place on 8th May. Will all those willing to help sell emblems write as soon as possible to the Chief Social Organiser, Greater London Fund for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

WE learn from the *Blindenhote* that the German State Railway has given permission to blind people to travel on business at half-price in the third and fourth classes.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LEATHERHEAD



HEN Valentin Haüy started his crusade on behalf of the blind towards the end of the eighteenth century, he had to contend with the prevailing ignorance on the subject. What he accomplished in the face of much opposition has been recorded in these pages, and it has been told how his example was followed in other countries where training schools for the blind were as yet unknown. Three of our English Blind Institutions may be said to owe their existence to this great pioneer—namely, the School for the Indigent Blind at Liverpool, the Royal Blind Asylum at Bristol, and the Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh — all of which were founded at the end of the eighteenth century. At that time yet another institution saw the light of day —the Institution which is to-day known as the Royal School for the Indigent Blind, Leatherhead. If those who called into being and hopefully watched the initial efforts to train half-a-dozen sightless workers in a room generally supposed to have been situated in an old tavern in St. George's Fields, Southwark, could take a peep at the imposing building at Leatherhead where 250 blind people, of whom thirty-five are totally deaf and blind, and five deaf, dumb and blind, are happily receiving instruction and pursuing trades under ideal conditions, their hearts would indeed rejoice.



Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead.

Of the origin of the School we will briefly state that it was due to the efforts of four benevolent gentlemen who, having enlisted the sympathies of other charitably-disposed individuals, placed the undertaking on a solid footing. Pupils between the ages of ten and eighteen were admitted, and the School buildings were added to from time to time until, in 1826, the charity was incorporated by Royal Charter, and the freehold of the School site was acquired. Incidentally it should be mentioned that at about this time mat-making was introduced into the School as an industry for the blind; we believe this to have been the first occasion on which blind people in the United Kingdom were thus occupied. The first mention of an adult workshop where ex-pupils could be employed at the trades they had learned while training at the School is made in 1862, and about two years later the basement of half the School premises was set apart specially for that purpose. In 1901, the School and the site were purchased by the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Company, and in the following year the pupils were transferred to Leatherhead, where an extensive building was erected out of the money received for the old site in London. It is interesting to hear that the old School in Southwark had been opened in the first year of Queen Victoria's reign, and that the foundation stone of the School at Leatherhead was laid by H.R.H. Princess Christian, in the first year of the reign of King Edward VII. The new buildings contained accommodation for 250 pupils, and were "so designed as to lend themselves readily to enlargement as the demand became felt." These "demands" were frequently made, as can be imagined, and the School buildings were added to from time to time as occasion arose. In 1911, H.M. King George V granted the title of "Royal" to the School, and himself became a patron.

The Institution is a little world of its own with its workshops and sales room, its clerical

offices, its Chapel, gymnasium, laundry, dormitories, and Hospital, its power-house for heating and electricity, worked by ex-naval men, and last, but by no means least, its own dental surgery. The enthusiastic Principal, the Reverend E. H. Griffiths, when throwing open the various departments to the scrutiny of his interviewer, remarked on the fact that they were practically self-contained. "The only thing we have not got," he added, "is a dairy," and one could not but suspect that somewhere at the back of an alert mind was a plan which might be matured in the not too-distant future. There are two separate departments, each self-contained, one for male, the other for female pupils. Each has a cloister surrounding a quadrangle, where pupils exercise in bad weather, and there are also two asphalted gardens where they take their recreation on fine days. While on the subject of exercise, it should be recorded that excellent work is done by pupils in the garden, where they are given small plots of ground to cultivate, and flowers and vegetables are grown. An instructor from the Guild of Blind Gardeners comes down regularly to supervise the work. Plenty of healthy recreation is afforded by girl-guide work, netball, football, and other games. Among other indoor recreations should be mentioned the Boys' Club, the Concert Party, and the Debating Society. Opening out into the cloisters are a large central hall, two dining-rooms for men and women respectively, music rooms, practising rooms, workshops and schools. The latest apparatus has been installed in the workrooms, and additions are frequently made to these. The pupils, both male and female, were to be seen turning out many specimens of mats, baskets, brushes, and chair-caning, and all seemed happy and intent on their work. The pianoforte-tuning and repairing shop is fully up-to-date. The men also go in for boot-repairing, a trade which is particularly well adapted for blind workers, and the women pursue the occupations of hand knitting, machine knitting, light-basket work, hand sewing and machine sewing. In the basket department a large order, given by Messrs. Lyons & Company, was being executed with skill and despatch, the colour spraying of the baskets being also done on the School premises. The sales shop, located in a room near the entrance hall, is readily accessible to visitors, and here we find a good representative stock of objects made at the School.

Classes for Braille and typewriting are attended by those pupils who have not learned the subjects before admission to the School, and other school subjects are also taught. Certificates of proficiency and badges of honour are given to pupils who have attained a certain standard. Blind girls are employed in the clerical offices. Here we were especially interested in two machines, one a small electric printing machine bymeans of which all the printing required at the School, such as billheads, programmes, catalogues, etc., is performed on the premises; the other a small Braille printing machine, manipulated from start to finish by a blind girl.



The Mat-Making Room.

The reading of the daily newspapers takes place each day in the library, and is always followed by animated discussion on current topics of interest. It is interesting to read the names of the various dormitories in the School, all of which are those of noted blind men and women, such as the Gough Dormitory, the Fawcett, Holman and Milton Dormitories for men, the Helen Keller, Williams, Paradis and Gilbert Dormitories for women; and we were interested to hear that, in a spirit of friendly rivalry, competition is held on the male side for the workshop showing the best progress each term, for which the Bosanquet Shield is

awarded, and for the best dormitory, for which the Ware Trophy is competed. The same competitions are held on the female side, both for the most progressive workshop, for which the Boddington Shield is contested, and for the best dormitory, for which the Houlston Trophy is awarded. These awards are named after the four gentlemen who founded the St. George's School, Southwark, in 1799. The Hospital is completely detached from the main building.

The Lecture and Concert Room, the Stanley Hall, contains the organ, which was originally placed in the School in Southwark. The beautiful Chapel is greatly loved by the pupils, who are allowed to wander round, touching and becoming familiar with the various objects. Each pupil is supplied with Braille Service Books, and several of the male pupils read the Lessons. Once a week a voluntary Guild of Instruction, attended by practically all the students, is held in the Chapel.



The Chapel.

It can be truly said that work at the Leatherhead School for the Blind is carried on under ideal conditions. The workrooms are lofty and well ventilated, and the latest apparatus has been set up, new machines being added whenever occasion arises.

When we consider what was the condition of some of the inmates on their arrival at the School, some totally unlearned and untrained, others in despair after some accident which has deprived them of their sight—possibly of both sight and hearing—others entirely lacking self-confidence, we marvel at the change wrought in so short a time, and through it all there is the hand which pulls the strings—unobtrusively, but successfully. We cannot refrain from saying how greatly their lot, especially the lot of those who are doubly handicapped, is lightened by the beneficent influence of the Principal of the School. As they sat or stood at their work, their faces brightened when he passed by, speaking to the deaf-blind in their own language. There was a cheery word for each, an encouraging remark for those who appeared despondent, and all set to at their jobs with renewed vigour.

It is along the most progressive lines that this big undertaking pursues its course, and, guided as it is by the zeal and foresight of "the man at the helm," one cannot but look forward to its even more successful future.

E. G.

PEARSON'S FRESH AIR FUND

AGAIN we have pleasure in calling attention to the Annual Report of the Fresh Air Fund, founded by the late Sir Arthur Pearson. Once again we have to record the many country holidays given to poor children of our city slums, and the joy and happiness given to no fewer than 145,235 of these little mites who were given a day's holiday, whilst 3,638 enjoyed a whole fortnight in the country or at the sea. In 36 years (for it was inaugurated by Sir Arthur Pearson in 1892) no less than 5,189,654 children have been given a day's country holiday. In 1908, the fortnightly holiday branch was started, and since that year 87,739 children have benefited.

The fund operates all over the country. There are no general management expenses, these being defrayed by the promoters, Messrs. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., and the Shaftesbury Society; all money subscribed goes directly to the children. The cost per head is 15d. and £1 respectively for the day and fortnightly holidays. Reports from all over the country are quoted, and the booklet contains some charming photographs of the fund's little guests.

BOOK REVIEW

"THE POOR GENTLEMAN"

By Ian Hay.

(Hodder & Stoughton, 7s. 6d.)

A NOVEL of which the hero is a blind man is, of course, a fascinating subject for us. Major Ian Hay undoubtedly has first-hand information on the subject of St. Dunstan's, and we believe that we are right in saying that it was St. Dunstan's that inspired him to write his story.

The "Poor Gentleman" is Captain Barry Shere, whose adventures, although he was blinded in the War, have by no means come to an end with his blindness.

The story starts quietly enough. We see him taking his daily walks to Kensington Gardens where he is absorbed by the little happenings around him, especially the conversation of children, whom he contrives to amuse by means of a chiming watch when they come up to ask him "the right time." In the Gardens he meets the delightful cockney ex-soldier, Alf Noseworthy, with whose advent the sensational part of the story commences. Alf—who has a great ambition to improve his conversation and to acquire "poise and personality" by means of correspondence classes advertised in a daily paper by an obviously American citizen—obtains a post with a film company which calls itself the Mayfair Studio. This, in reality, is an organisation concerned with the downfall of the British Empire. Captain Shere meets some of its members at Le Touquet, and recognises one of them—Manoukian by name—as the man to whom he owes his blindness. On his return to London, the gang, fearing that he knows too much, kidnap him, together with his young cousin, Nigel Dexter, and a beautiful girl, Corrie Lyndon, whose acquaintance he has made in France. By a strange coincidence, the place in which they are confined is a large building previously used as a War Hospital, in which our hero had spent some months after becoming blind. Naturally, he has learned to know all the ins and outs of the building, and is able to spy upon the proceedings of the nefarious gang. It is most exciting to read of the plot to wreck the British Government, of the part played—or rather *not* played—by Alf, who has been employed to work a secret wireless station, and of the fight in which the blind man gets the better of, and finally kills, the leader of the gang. The love story is very charming, but in particular we would call attention to the very able manner in which Major Hay has portrayed his blind hero, the details being strikingly accurate. It is almost as if a blind man himself had written the story. E. G.

MUSIC STUDENTS' LIBRARY

A NEW development in the Music Department of the National Institute is the foundation of a Music Students' Library. This Library will consist of specially selected Music and Books on technical subjects connected with music, which, for various reasons cannot be stereotyped. It is, in fact, something like the Students' Library (literature) already so successfully established, and is intended to cater for the needs of advanced Students in the theory and practice of Music.

The books and music will be on loan to *bona-fide* Students for one month, subject to renewal on application.

Application, with full details as to the purpose for which the books are required, should be made to The Director of Music, National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

Full details of all works available will regularly be announced in the *Braille Musical Magazine* (price 6s. per annum, post free).

No work so lent may be copied, either in whole or in part, that being an illegal infringement of the privilege granted exclusively to the National Institute by the owners of copyright for the benefit of blind students. A student may, however, apply to the Institute to ask if such a duplicate copy could be made, provided he is prepared to undertake to pay the cost of such copying at the customary charge per sheet.

The first list of Titles of available works will appear in the May issue of the *Braille Musical Magazine*.

At a Meeting of the League for the Prohibition of Cruel Sports, at Westminster last month, Mr. J. Walker King, of Exeter, mentioned the fact that for many years he held a record in the sporting world as a blind huntsman. Although he is seventy years of age he still rides, but he "turned his back on his hunting friends" after a deer was worried to death during some twenty minutes.

THE YEAR 1920 AND AFTER

By BEN PURSE

(Concluded)



HERE is, however, one more aspect of Poor Law assistance available to the blind which is far more difficult to explain. I refer to that method which is known to us as the provision of Poor Law Out-Relief as distinct from Institutional treatment.

This form of assistance, in its broadest implications, was set up to deal with temporary conditions, and, although the administration has oftentimes been grossly abused, in the main its functions are properly understood and discharged; but, in-so-far as the blind are concerned, this system, it is to be feared, represents a permanent obligation, for as soon as the blind become recipients of assistance from this agency, they invariably remain chargeable.

Though the incidence of cost may be reduced as they become eligible for other forms of help, such as the State Pension, or, as is sometimes the case, the obligation may be transferred from the Guardians of the Poor to the local Blind Persons Committee, still, in such an event, the financial operation is merely to transfer the burden of costs to another public administration.

Here again it has not been found possible to separate expenditure incurred by maintenance of the blind from that undertaken in respect of other recipients of out-relief, but a careful calculation leads me to the conclusion that the amount thus expended is a considerable sum, certainly not less than £200,000 per annum.

In certain circumstances, the help of the Poor Law may be invoked on behalf of the blind in yet another and more constructive fashion; for despite the fact that Section II of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, confers powers upon the County and County Borough Councils, enabling them to provide for the general training of the blind, and to incur expenditure for these purposes, some Poor Law Authorities continue to exercise their powers under an old Statute in the same direction, and to provide training and maintenance charges.

It is probable, however, that when the provisions of the 1920 Act are better known and more generally understood, the Poor Law Authorities will decline to act in this way, for it is obvious that such duplication of powers can only lead to confusion and to a general misunderstanding which good administration should at all times be careful to avoid.

It will be noted, therefore, that assistance rendered to blind persons under the Poor Law System expresses itself in the following definite ways:—

(1) By the provision of Institutional treatment for those who have reached a state of destitution.

(2) By rendering help in money or in kind to those who may be residing in their own homes whose income is otherwise insufficient for their proper maintenance.

(3) By assuming responsibility for the payment of training fees and maintenance charges during the period of training.

I have already made a brief reference to the powers conferred upon County and County Borough Authorities under the Blind Persons Act; but, in order to promote a clearer understanding of the law in relation to these matters, it will be necessary to enter more fully into this phase of our subject.

Ever since the passing of the compulsory Education Acts for the Blind and Deaf, 1891 and 1893, there has grown up a very insistent demand for the intervention of the State on behalf of the blind in other and additional spheres to that of education. This agitation reached its culminating point in the year 1920, when the Blind Persons Act became law. Briefly stated, the provisions of this Act are as follows:—

(1) A pension of 10s. per week is provided for blind persons of 50 years of age, the pension being administered through the local Post Office, and generally conforming to the same conditions as those under which the Old Age Pension Acts are administered.

(2) The responsibility of providing training facilities and subsequent employment is placed upon the County and County Borough Authorities, together with the further duty of attending to the needs of the unemployable blind.

(3) The third and last section of this Act deals with the registration of Institutions, Societies, and Agencies for the Blind, and gives authority for the elimination of bogus organisations.

The importance of this piece of legislation can hardly be exaggerated. Its operations during a few short years have so completely reshaped our problem as to render present-day conditions infinitely superior to anything we have previously known ; so much so, that within the next decade it seems to me that we ought to be in a position to take such steps as may be necessary actually to reduce public expenditure on some of the essential services by reason of the greater care that is being exercised in the prevention of blindness, and, as I hope, because of the greater efficiency of the blind themselves in industry, commerce, and in the various professions that are now being opened up to us.

At the present time we are expending £360,000 per annum in England and Wales on the provision of State Pensions for the Blind ; and, although we may not yet have reached the maximum cost of this service, we are within measurable distance of so doing, for it is unlikely that the expenditure in any one year can exceed £400,000 unless the rate of the individual pension is increased, which circumstance is unlikely to happen in the immediate future.

It is now necessary to refer to a section of the unemployable blind who are being assisted by many of the County and County Borough Authorities under the Blind Persons Act. This is a form of help that is being steadily developed, and it is more than probable that under a proposed scheme of Poor Law Reform the various administrative provisions will be so co-ordinated and the machinery so remodelled as to place this section of the blind community directly under the control of one single Authority. This is eminently desirable, and would enable us to secure something approaching uniformity of treatment, a condition which, unfortunately, does not exist to-day.

As indicating the trend of present developments, it is to be observed that many County Borough Authorities are making substantial weekly contributions to the maintenance of all unemployable blind persons in their respective areas, whilst on the other hand some such Authorities absolutely decline to accept any such obligation, and refer all cases to the Poor Law Authorities. It is obvious, therefore, that these differences in practice cannot be allowed to continue, and we are anticipating in the near future such alterations in the administrative machinery as will bring uniformity of treatment and practice into an otherwise admirable system.

It will be observed from the statements I have already made that, in this matter of providing for the blind, we have in Britain what is known as a three-fold partnership—the constituent elements being the Voluntary Agencies, the State, and the Local Governing Authorities.

It is, for all practical purposes, an exceedingly happy and useful combination; not any one of these partners could of themselves have achieved anything like the degree of success that has been secured, because not any one alone possesses all the essentials which constitute our present system of welfare work ; therefore, to attempt to dissolve this partnership would be an act of folly which no well-informed person is likely to desire.

It will be observed, then, that in the administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, greater uniformity of treatment and practice is deemed to be essential, whilst at the same time it is equally necessary that there should be more co-ordination among voluntary institutions in order that the funds available may be utilised economically and to the exclusive advantage of those for whom the money is so generously bequeathed.

Many people were seriously perturbed a few years ago when special legislation was promoted on behalf of the blind. It was felt that there would be a tendency on the part of the public to give less liberally towards the maintenance of benevolent objects ; but in reality the unexpected has happened, for the fact that the State and Local Authorities have manifested confidence in the efficiency of the work undertaken has stimulated and encouraged the general public, and in point of fact they have been giving more liberally in recent years than at any previously known period in the history of philanthropy.

The following figures pertinently illustrate this tendency, and I need not attempt further amplification. No statistics are yet available beyond 1924. 1919-20, £220,000 ; 1920-21, £250,000 ; 1921-22, £295,000 ; 1922-23, £371,000 ; 1923-24, £401,000.

It must be borne in mind that the above-mentioned sums are contributed to the 130

agencies for the blind registered under Section III of the Act of 1920, and I ought here to say that it is not intended to convey the impression that all the sums so collected by the Voluntary Agencies are necessarily available for relief purposes.

It is, however, apparent (in view of the fact that training and maintenance costs are provided by Local Authorities) that, apart from the moneys allocated for the purpose of augmenting wages, very considerable sums are administered annually in the form of temporary relief by the Voluntary Agencies.

There are types of cases which as yet are not dealt with to any considerable extent by County and County Borough Authorities, and it is to the assistance of such that voluntary funds are at present largely applied. I regret, however, that no reliable estimate can be given, as it is extremely difficult, in the absence of a carefully-prepared analysis, to say how much is contributed in direct relief by the Agencies, though, unquestionably, the sum is a very considerable one.

In a very few years, however, expenditure for special cases will be available, and it is anticipated that voluntary funds can then be more largely utilised for experimental and research work—spheres of activity upon which we must be prepared to enter much more freely in the future if the social and economic status of the blind is to be raised in any degree commensurate with the knowledge we are steadily acquiring.

Though I make no claim that this article may in any sense be regarded as a comprehensive survey of a very complex subject, I think sufficient will have been said to give the student a clear idea of the way in which the problem is being grappled with in Britain.

It is true that most of us are tolerably well satisfied with the progress that is being made in the direction of securing a more adequate provision for the unemployable blind ; that, as I have already indicated, will soon be an accomplished fact when Local Governing Authorities administer such assistance through one appropriate Committee, whose specific work will be to give such public assistance.

The real problem before us is a much more serious and complicated one, viz., as to how far we can proceed to reduce the very high percentage of physical and mental inefficiency. That is another phase of the work which must continue to occupy the minds of sociologists for some time to come ; but I am optimistic enough to believe that we are making steady advances towards the end desired, and that with much patience and research a solution will ultimately be evolved. In the meantime, those desperately poor and unfortunate people are with us, and it is the business of the various relief agencies to administer to their needs, a task they are performing with commendable ability and true humanitarian interest.

Through the long centuries of sorrow and tribulation, mankind in its quest for a better and easier way has ever been reaching out towards a more perfect and a more luminous day. Already the hopeful dawn is yielding place to a still more glorious morning, ushering in the happy time when the world will joyfully celebrate its emancipation from those evil conditions by which it has been enslaved, and which have engendered so much sorrow and suffering throughout all time.

It is to welcome this day of days that good men and women of all generations and of all climes have consecrated their lives, and it is to that wonderful consummation that the souls of many of God's children everywhere will be dedicated in the future. Let us, therefore, make our richest contribution to the work in the form of exalted and faithful service, knowing full well that for all of us the harvest time is at hand.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

FEBRUARY has been a month of almost daily fixtures, for the most part in preparation for " Geranium Day."

The Concert Party were much in demand, and provided the programmes at Sanderstead, West Drayton, and Catford—organised by the Lewisham " Helpers of the Blind "—in addition to individual members giving assistance on various other occasions.

Notable Circle events were the Annual Concerts at Wandsworth—when His Worship the Mayor presided, and accommodation could not be found for many who wished to attend —and New Barnet, when Mrs. Simmons beat her own excellent record by handing over nearly £50 to the Fund ; a Concert at Northwood, where the organisation was undertaken by Miss Freda Mantle, and a Musical and Dramatic Entertainment at Abbots Langley.

Other successful concerts were arranged by Miss Cowderoy, at Peckham, and by Mrs. Ta'Bois, at Woodford.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

Arthur Pearson Memorial
BRAILLE WRITING COMPETITION

THE first Competition, which was held by the Library, in February, was open to candidates under 16 years of age. Sixty children entered, and fifty-nine actually submitted tests.

The Braille work sent in was of a high standard, and the three Braille experts, who acted as examiners and judges, had a difficult task in awarding the prizes.

The winners came from various parts of the Country. We give their names and schools below, and heartily congratulate them on their success :—

FIRST PRIZES. 15s. each—

Joan Hewlett, Royal Normal College, Norwood.

Ronald Mason, Linden Lodge L.C.C. School, Wandsworth Common.

SECOND PRIZES. 10s. each—

George R. Singleton, Homes for the Blind, Lytham Road, Preston.

Catherine Craig, Craigmillar Blind School.

Gerald Bromley, Worcester College.

THIRD PRIZES. 5s. each—

Susan Adams, Birmingham Royal Institute.

Joan Driver, L.C.C. School, Clifton Villas, N.W.1.

George Houston, Craigmillar Blind School.

Nettie Rinder, Berkshire Road L.C.C. School, South Hackney.

Margaret Buckley, Catholic School for the Blind, Liverpool.

Leonard Paynter, Royal Normal College, Norwood.

Harry Booth, Leeds School for the Blind.

Joseph Harrison, Hardman Street School, Liverpool.

CONSOLATION PRIZES. 2s. 6d. each.

Marjorie Parsons, Birmingham Royal Institute.

Frederick Warne, Berkshire Road L.C.C. School, South Hackney.

E. W. Austin Memorial
READING COMPETITION.

THE Eighth Meeting of the E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held at the National Library on Saturday, 12th May. Intending competitors should consult the March issue of the *Beacon* for full particulars and should send in their names to the Secretary, 35 Great Smith Street, S.W.1., as soon as possible.

EMBOSSED MAPS FOR THE BLIND

A NEW series of raised Maps has been produced by the National Institute for the Blind. These Maps fill a long-felt want and at the same time are produced in such a form as to be specially welcome in schools, etc., for class use.

There are two maps of each Country, one shewing Rivers and Towns, and the other Rivers and Mountains, and a Braille guide which gives a full explanation of both maps. At the most important centres, Braille characters are embossed on the maps for the purposes of easy identification. An alphabetical list of the characters used is given at the beginning of the guide, and repeated again in the column of the page on which the necessary information is given.

County towns are easily distinguished from other towns, and a comprehensive list of populations has also been included in the guide.

Latitude and longitudinal marking, together with a scale of miles, is embossed on every map.

Each map measures 14ins. by 11½ins., and is produced on very strong, tough board. As a guide to sighted teachers, the maps are coloured, and names of the rivers and towns are printed on every map.

Prices.—Maps, 9d. each.
Guide to above, 3s. each.

Subject to the usual two-thirds discount to residents in the British Empire.

The following are now ready :—

England and Wales.
Scotland.
Ireland.

AMONG the private bills presented in the House of Commons on the 11th of February, in the order in which they emerged from the ballot for places, was that of Mr. Naylor (Southwark, S.E., Labour), to amend the Blind Persons Act, 1920. This was the 16th on the list.

BRAILLE BOOKS—Continued

FICTION—

7845-7850	Notre Dame de Paris, by Victor Hugo. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 6 vols. ..	per vol.	9 3
7653-7654	The Red House Mystery, by A. A. Milne. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 2 vols.	per vol.	9 0

HISTORY—

8279-8283	Tales of a Grandfather, by Sir Walter Scott, Bart. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards. Series 1, 5 vols.	per vol.	8 9
8284-8288	Ditto, ditto. Series 2, 5 vols.	per vol.	8 9
8289-8294	Ditto, ditto. Series 3, 6 vols.	per vol.	8 9

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
LIST OF ADDITIONS
March, 1928.

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Ballantyne, R. M. Gorilla Hunters : A Tale of the Wilds of Africa	5
Bashford, H. H. Behind the Fog : A Tale of Adventure	4
Beach, Rex. Heart of the Sunset	6
Bennett, Arnold. These Twain	7
Borden, Mary. Jericho Sands	5
Buchan, John. Witch Wood	6
Carmichael, Amy. Brigand's Story	1
Delafield, E. M. Jill	4
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Ferber, Edna. Mother Knows Best, and Other Stories	3
Gaunt, Mary. Saul's Daughter	4
Hamilton, P. Craven House	5
Jacobs, W. W. Sea Whispers : Short Stories ..	3
Lewis, Sinclair. Mantrap	4
Locke, W. J. At the Gate of Samaria	6
Mason, A. E. W. No Other Tiger	5
Milne, A. A. Winnie-the-Pooh	1
Pennell, Elizabeth. Our House	4
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UNCONTRACTED BRAILLE.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

Boulanger, J. (Ed. F. Funck-Brentano). National History of France. Part IV. 17th Century. (E. W. Austin Memorial)	8
Anon. Love and Death, with Foreword by Sir Oliver Lodge	1
Froude, J. A. Essay on the Book of Job, from "Short Studies in Great Subjects"	1
Haddow, W. H. Music	3
Hill, J. A. Psychical Investigations. (Some personally-observed proofs of survival). (E. W. Austin Memorial)	4
Holderness, T. W. Peoples and Problems of India. (E. W. Austin Memorial)	3
Ibanez, V. B. Novelist's Tour of the World ..	6
Inge, Dean W. R. England	5
Joad, C. E. M. The Mind and Its Workings ..	2
Leeuw, J. J. van der. Gods in Exile	1
Lewis, Ethelreda (Editress). Aloysius Horn : The Ivory Coast in the Earlies	5
Oxenham, John. "Gentlemen,—the King!" (A Poem)	1
Trollope, Anthony. Autobiography : With Introduction by Michael Sadleir. (E. W. Austin Memorial)	5

ADVERTISEMENTS.

KNITTERS—Instructress, travelling, to supervise Blind Machine and Hand Knitters and assist in their welfare. Applicants, not more than 35 years of age, should possess a thorough knowledge of Harrison Circular Knitting Machine. Commencing salary £156 per annum, plus travelling expenses. Also **Supervisor,** control employment and maintain stocks of wool and hosiery. Some business knowledge desirable. Commencing salary £156 per annum. Persons appointed will be required to reside near Redhill, Surrey. Applications accompanied by two recent testimonials should be forwarded not later than 7th April to National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

WANTED AT ONCE.—Lady Home-Teacher and Visitor for the Blind, in the Macclesfield Area. Knowledge of Braille and Handicrafts essential. Apply to Miss A. Smale, Thornley, Ryles Park, Macclesfield.

WANTED.—Home-Teacher (Woman) for the Borough of Cambridge. Must have thorough knowledge of knitting and another handicraft. Braille Reader and experience in social work. Salary from £150, according to qualifications. Send full particulars to Secretary, Cambridgeshire Society for the Blind, 5 Emmanuel Street, Cambridge.

The following apparatus is now ready for sale at the National Institute :—

N.I.B. Draughts Set. Catalogue No. 9210. Price 1s. 9d. (Complete.)

Cross-Word Puzzle Board. Catalogue No. 21 Price 4s. (Postage extra.)

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the March Numbers)

Progress.—The World's Oldest Parliament—Cloth-workers through four Centuries—The Weather-wise—For the Blind of Abyssinia—Matters of the Moment—Correspondence—Our Prize Competitions—Advertisements—Sisters who Helped—The Mint does its Laundering—" Saucy Ann " comes to stay—Ghost Trains of London—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box.—French Page "Afraid of Life "—The Oxford Dictionary. Supplements : ,, Progress " Chess ; Home Occupations : The " Bobby " Tunic (concluded) ; Child's Vest. Announcements. Automatic Telephone Code. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—The Adequacy of Parliaments—Earl Haig—Lord Oxford—Moving Continents—Science and Crime—Criminals in the Dock—National Library Reading Competition—Reviews of some New Books. Supplements : Announcements ; Automatic Telephone Codes. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—The 200th Birthday of " The Beggar's Opera "—R.C.O. Examination Reports—Obituary : Mr. Millward Hughes—Rudiments of Music—Advertisements—Notes on " The Little Organ Book of Bach "—Special Notice—Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—Professor C. H. Kitson. Supplements : Braille Music Reviews ; Announcements ; Inset : Music Coupons. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Some Disabilities of the Foot—The Use and Abuse of Ultra Violet Ray Therapy—New Health Lessons. Supplements : " Massage Journal " Inset : Comparison of the A.C. Mercury Lamp with some A.C. Arcs. Official Notices. Announcements. Automatic Telephones Code. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—The Earth never comes back—Pisa's Tower—Rules for the Learned Man (poem)—The Chief Scout Yarns—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—Housekeepers of By-gone Days—Perseus and the Medusa's Head Supplements : " Comrades." Announcements. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—Englishwoman Alone in Africa (Part II)—" This Splendid Soldier "—Beer as Drunk in Babylon—Miss Riddell—Important Notice concerning the Serial—The Romance of Nikko Cheyne (Book I, 1-4)—National Library for the Blind—Air Dash to Rescue Shot Girl—Thought for the Month—Egg-Hatching in Egypt—Altar of Ice—The Three Women of Chipewyan.

The Light-Bringer.—From the Braille Room—Notice concerning the Deaf-Blind Helpers' League—Thought-Power (Chapter VIII) : Obstacles to Concentration—The Kingdom of Happiness : III, Personality ; IV, The Temple of the Heart—Occultism, Pseudo and Genuine—The Theosophical World University—The Wayside Station—The God Within—Extract from a Letter by Will Levington Comfort—The Joy of Return—The Liberal Catholic Church.

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—The Science of Mythology—News Items—The Poets' Corner—A Man of the Moment—Favourite Quotations—International Notes—Advertisements—Legal Notes. Supplements : Literary, Thomas Hardy ; Music, The Magic of Mendelssohn ; Music Coupons, " Only a Rose " (Song Fox-Trot by Friml) ; ,, The Dawn has a Song " (Song by Montague Phillips). (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Moon Magazine.—Smythe with an E—Lucky Peters—The First Ship—Dining with Lions.

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Résumé of Programmes Broadcast from all Stations of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription : Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription : 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription : 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1928

MAY

Vol. XII No. 137

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.
The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

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8430	" Little Billee," by J. M. Diack, C, Compass B, to D′, pocket size	2	0
8431	" She sauntered by the Swinging Seas," by H. J. Foss, D flat, Compass E to F′ sharp, pocket size	2	0
8432	" Morning Hymn," by G. Henschel, D flat, Compass C to F′	2	0
8433	" The Pride of Tipperary," by A. Lochhead, D, Compass C to E′, pocket size	2	0
8434	" April is a Lady," by Montague Phillips, E flat, Compass D to G′, pocket size	2	0
8435	" How shall I sing that Majesty ? " (Sacred), by J. Pointer, C, Compass C to G′, pocket size	2	0
8436	" The Inner Light," by Schubert, E flat, Compass E to A′, pocket size	2	0
8437	" Mr. Belloc's Fancy," by Peter Warlock, G, Compass D to G′, pocket size	2	0
8438	" The Pretty Creature," arr. by H. Lane Wilson, F, Compass C to D′, pocket size	2	0

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

			s.	d.
	FICTION—			
7922-7924	" The Justice of the Duke," by Rafael Sabatini, Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Paper Covers, 3 vols.	per vol.	6	3
7704-7706	" Tom Fool," by F. Tennyson Jesse, Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 3 vols.	per vol.	8	9
7696-7698	" Virgin Soil," by Ivan S. Turgenev, Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 3 vols.	per vol.	9	3
	SOCIOLOGICAL—			
8405-8406	Handbook for Home Teachers. (College and Association of Teachers of the Blind), Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Paper Covers, 2 vols.	per vol.	6	3

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

			s.	d.
2714-2721	" The Red Axe," (Limited Edition) by S. R. Crockett, 8 vols.	per vol.	12	0

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XII.—NO. 137. MAY, 1928. PRICE 3D.
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THE SPECIAL FUND FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN



THE lot of the ex-soldier has been by no means an exceptionally fortunate one since the War. Unlimited admiration was naturally given to him, rosy promises were made, and the world was to be a world fit for him and his fellows. Yet, somehow, everyday life and its humdrum events seemed to intervene between desire and fulfilment, and most ex-soldiers have long since smiled philosophically at the fading of the glory in the grey, and have good-humouredly taken their place amongst the plodding civilians.

This, of course, is all in the way of the world, and no one grumbles a great deal. Nobody with fair health and brain requires other help than that of his own high purpose, his own stout arm and the normal good fellowship of humanity. It is the maimed, the blind, the limbless, the irreparably damaged,—those who have given up some priceless capability, some irrevocable power,—who would have a right to complain, but in this direction all will recognise that very great results have been achieved. The shining example is St. Dunstan's, one of the greatest ameliorative efforts of all times, which History will chronicle and the memory of a nation enshrine. The names of similar movements readily occur to one, and it should give a certain amount of satisfaction to the present generation to know that, in so far as its treatment of war-disabled men is concerned, it can compare very favourably with the post-war generations of other times.

Yet there has been a kind of backwash of cases—men whose wounds may not have been spectacular, men whose health was undermined almost unawares, men not wounded in battle, but by mischance—and such cases, extremely difficult to define, have had perhaps the most bitter experiences since the War of any class of ex-service men. They found themselves overlooked and forgotten, the last to arrive in the great stream of returning victims of war, a stream so great that it has taxed to the utmost the public and private generosity of all nations.

Amongst this unfortunate class were certain blind ex-service men, who, for one reason or another, were ineligible for assistance from St. Dunstan's. Many men were in such a hurry at the end of the War to return to civilian life that they signed certificates stating that they were fit and had no claims, not realising then what might be the after effects of the hardships they had gone through, such as gas-poisoning, wounds, and various injuries to their heads which have since brought on blindness. Their misery can be better imagined than described. To them it must have seemed that every work and pleasure of life was barred. The cases of acute distress were, indeed, pitiful, and some of these were brought to the attention of a man whose sympathy with everything tending towards the betterment of conditions surrounding serving and ex-service men has become almost proverbial—Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind. He proceeded at once to examine the

position of these special cases, and eventually founded a Special Fund for the relief, training and after-care of blind ex-soldiers ineligible for assistance by St. Dunstan's and, incidentally, of blind dependents of serving and ex-serving men.

The Fund met with immediate support, perhaps the most gratifying being that of the Admiralty, the Army Council, and the Air Council, and that of various units in all branches of His Majesty's Forces, including the Indian Army, and other troops overseas. Annual appeals are now made to the Navy by Admirals of the Fleet Lord Beatty and Sir Charles Madden; to the Army by Field Marshals Lord Allenby and Sir William Robertson, and to the Air Force by Air-Chief-Marshal Sir Hugh Trenchard and Air-Marshal Sir John Salmond. As a result of these appeals by distinguished officers, many units have become regular subscribers.

In many of the cases dealt with, appeals have been made for review and, in some, pensions have been granted, and the men have come under the care of St. Dunstan's. Many cases, however, do not come within the limits necessarily governing St. Dunstan's work; and men are still going blind and may continue to do so; so this Special Fund is meeting a very real and urgent need.

When the Fund was first established, 35 ex-soldiers came under its care, but now the number has increased to over 220. It is in touch with practically all Regimental Associations and, in many cases, is working in co-operation with them. By this means, not only is speedier help given, but overlapping is avoided.

Men have been and are being trained for various professions such as law and massage, and occupations such as basket-making, mattress-making, telephony, etc.; some have been set up in business. But there are many who, through no fault of their own, are incapable of being trained or earning a living. Some are even bed-ridden, and but for this Special Fund, many would be ending their days in the workhouse.

The gift of wireless sets and the *Braille Radio Times* to these men has considerably relieved the tedium of existence. The directors of the Fund keep in close and constant touch with each man and his relations, and the British Legion has generously helped, not only financially, but by looking after many of the cases in remote parts of the country.

Amongst many expressions of thanks received, those quoted below are typical, and prove how much this Special Fund is appreciated :—

"Now I must ask you to convey my gratitude to Captain Towse for the manner in which the N.I.B. have shepherded me since I went blind. Although I might preach a thanksgiving sermon, it would not adequately express what I feel."

"Now I must thank you personally for the many efforts you have made on my behalf. I know you have worked very hard for me, and without your efforts I had little chance. If I appeared during my course as a very discontented individual may I ask you to account for that to my many anxieties, which at that time seemed to me insurmountable. I really thought at that time that my fate was well and truly sealed, for my knowledge of blind people was confined to a tin mug and a forlorn-looking mongrel sitting on a pavement. We will let that pass, for I have since felt that exquisite feeling of receiving my first week's earnings, and the choicest wines could not have given me a better stimulation."

"As I have been promised the first chance of a house through Matron's influence, I am going to wed at Christmas. If I am lucky enough to settle comfortably, I shall thank the N.I.B. for that chance. I reserve the last thanks, but not least, for the training I received, which has enabled me to earn my bread and marmalade."

"I wish to express my deep gratitude for the great interest you have taken in me since losing my sight, both during my training in telephony and your effectual effort to obtain employment afterwards. I understand that I have now been placed on the permanent staff here as a telephonist. The board on which I work has four exchange lines and forty extensions. It is needless to say that work of this kind is totally different from any of my previous career as a sailor, but I am confident the splendid training I have received will enable me to prove myself worthy of your help and recommendation."

These extracts speak for themselves, and will convince all our readers that the Fund is doing most worthy work.

THE EDITOR.

REPORT OF SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE



HE Fourth Report of the Scottish Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind has been issued. The Report covers the period from August, 1926, to January, 1928, when the term of office of the Committee expired, and it is signed by Sir William Reid (Chairman) and the Rev. Thomas Burns, D.D. (Vice-Chairman) on behalf of the Committee. Following on the recommendation by the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, the Advisory Committee was first set up in 1918 to advise the Scottish Board of Health on all matters relating to the care and supervision of the blind in Scotland, and includes persons nominated by Associations representative of all the public authorities concerned in the welfare of the blind, of Voluntary Agencies, and of the blind workers themselves. The Report deals with many important questions affecting the interests of blind persons, and reviews and discusses some of the problems that have arisen in connection with them, as well as giving an account of the numerous services now provided for the blind.

It is shown that the amount paid in Government grant for the maintenance of the services provided for blind persons in Scotland has increased from £13,694 in 1922-23 to £16,034 in 1926-27. The steady increases in the grants paid in respect of the various services reflect the development and expansion of these services.

It is stated that the number of blind persons registered in the Central Register kept by the Scottish Board of Health is still steadily increasing, the total number as at 1st April, 1927, being 6,939, an increase of 300 over the previous year, and of 607 over 1925. The Committee are still of opinion that the increase in the number of registered blind does not mean an increase in the number of blind persons in Scotland. They attribute the growth of registration to the greater interest now taken generally in the welfare of the blind, to the increased activities of Voluntary Agencies, and to the granting of an Old Age Pension to blind persons at the age of 50 years. Of the total number of registered blind persons 340 are under 16 years of age, 2,155 are between the ages of 17 and 50, 2,960 between 51 and 70, and 1,484 over 70 years. The decrease referred to in the last Report of the Committee in the number of children under 16 years of age is still maintained. In 1926 the number of such children was 359, and in 1924 it was 399. The Committee state that growing experience confirms their conviction that this decrease is due, to a considerable extent, to the measures adopted by Local Authorities for the prevention and treatment of disease, particularly the measures taken for the prevention and treatment of ophthalmia neonatorum and venereal diseases, and the extending provision made under the Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes. Employment is found in Institutions for 963 blind persons, an increase of 38 in the year. The number of untrained blind persons stated to be capable and willing to undergo training is also being steadily reduced. 4,445, or approximately 64 per cent. of the registered blind in Scotland are classified as unemployable. Tentative statistics as to the annual incidence of blindness in Scotland tend to confirm the claim that blindness in the early years of life is decreasing.

The Report discusses and makes recommendations on such varied suggestions as the technical education of the blind (including the inspection of training departments and the institution of an examination for technical instructors), additional industries, the notification and the prevention of blindness, the provision of home work, the need for increased financial support for Outdoor Societies, the treatment of the blind in other countries, and the provision necessary for the aged and infirm and physically defective blind.

The Committee are of opinion that similar powers to those granted to Local Authorities in England should be given to Local Authorities in Scotland to make arrangements to assist in the prevention of blindness. They also express the view that many accidents occurring in civil life, which have resulted in the total or partial destruction of sight, might with the exercise of ordinary care have been entirely prevented, and that the serious danger of blindness supervening as the result of casual injuries, should be brought home to the general public, and to children in particular.

The extensive enquiries that are now being made, on the Committee's recommendation, into the treatment of the blind in other countries may result in additional industries being found for blind persons in Scotland.

THE HOUSE AS I "SEE" IT

AN interesting article under the above heading appeared in a recent issue of the *Weekly Dispatch*.' Captain Ian Fraser, M.P., says that he has some idea of the appearance of a few Members such as Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Lloyd George, because they were much photographed and cartooned in the old days :—

" Of the rest I form my own pictures, based upon description and imagination, formed from deduction and odd scraps of conversation. The voice, manner and behaviour of a man give one an idea whether he is assertive or modest, hard or kind. Men and women usually wear clothes to suit their personalities and characters, and from these one can usually guess accurately what sort of clothes they wear.

" My pictures of people are always a conglomeration of ideas gathered from various sources. To walk along a corridor holding a man's arm gives me an impression of his height and build, and these various impressions, coupled with known facts about individuals, form my ideas of people. When I come to put together my picture of any particular person I never know whether it is the result of what I have heard or just what I feel they must be like. . . . . Then again, I can tell a man's height by where his voice comes from. . . . . .

" Similarly, I make a fairly accurate picture of the House itself. These dreams may be correct or incorrect in general or in details. I do not know. But they are my own pictures, and a source of great satisfaction. I enjoy my life in the House enormously. In the Chamber itself I do not meet with any insuperable difficulty. I daresay I know about two hundred M.P.'s by their voices, either because they are friends of mine with whom I have often talked, or because they are important or frequent speakers in the debates. I always sit in the same seat in the House, and most Members sit in and speak from particular benches, so that apart from the voice itself I have the additional guide afforded by the direction from which the voice comes. 'Catching the Speaker's eye' is a phrase which describes the process of indicating a desire to be called to speak. It does not involve my seeing the Speaker, but merely that he should see me. When each Member finishes speaking and sits down, those who want to join in the debate will rise in their places and the Speaker will call names in turn, according to the distribution of the parties, pre-arrangement, or possibly to the priority of the rising of the individual.

" I have to rely on my memory in making a speech, both as regards my own considered ideas and statements of previous speakers. This seems to serve me well enough, for memory, like every other faculty or sense, develops with practice. I sit in a corner seat, the nearest one to the main door of the Chamber. This enables me to get in and out of my place without bothering other Members for assistance or running the risks involved by climbing over a number of outstretched legs. The average blind man, if he takes the trouble, can fairly quickly find his way about a strange place by learning the corners and angles of passages, peculiar sounds and echoes of halls, and so on. The sense of hearing and possibly an appreciation of differing air pressures, convey information as to the proximity of walls, and inform one whether or not a door is open. These indications are by no means certain, but with practice one can proceed on one's usual routes without very great difficulty. But I find it difficult to find my way about the House. I can soon find my way if I am left to explore alone ; but there is always somebody proceeding in the same direction who offers an arm. . . . . Moreover, the numerous Members themselves, quickly moving from place to place, are unfixed and incalculable objects. I know where Joe Chamberlain's statue is, and would not run into him, but I never know where I may meet one of his sons, hurriedly coming round a corner, looking at a paper."

OBITUARY

THE death has taken place of Mr. H. Sandiford Turner, the blind organist of Queen's Park West U.F. Church. Mr. Turner came to Glasgow after the completion of his education at the Royal Normal College for the Blind. He was appointed a member of the staff of the Athenian School of Music, and his connection with the School extended for thirty-six years. His first appointment in Scotland as an organist was at Rhu Parish Church, and afterwards at Sherwood U.F. Church, Paisley. He transferred to Hillhead Congregational Church, and was later appointed to Queen's Park West U.F. Church.

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

The Reverend Canon C. E. BOLAM, F.R.Hist.S.

THE Editor has done me the honour of asking me to contribute an autobiographical article to the BEACON. He has set me a difficult task ; it is not easy to write about oneself without running the risk of appearing to sound one's own trumpet. However, I will make the plunge and begin.

I have too much sight to be considered quite blind, and too little sight to be classed as sighted ; but as I possess less than six-sixtieths of sight I may fairly claim to be considered a blind man. My father joined the Army (the old 7th Royal Fusiliers) in 1857, but found it too expensive a career for an officer with slender private means, and, regretfully retiring, took to land agency. I was born at Savernake, my father being then Agent to Lord Aylesbury. When I was about eight years old, my father was appointed Agent to the Duke of Buccleuch. It was at this time that I had my first Braille lesson from Dr. T. R. Armitage. That interview was impressed on my mind partly because of his extreme kindness, and partly (perhaps chiefly) because he showed me a hedgehog and made me feel the prickles, and from the hedgehog he transferred me to Braille dots. On his advice I was sent to a blind mistress, the late Miss Matilda Blott, of Notting Hill. She was well known to the older generation of blind, and I, in common with many, owe her a deep debt of gratitude.



THE REVEREND CANON C. E. BOLAM

In the summer of 1887, I went to Worcester College, which then occupied the beautiful Tudor building of the old Commandery. Well I remember my first day. I was standing in the school yard after my parents had departed, feeling very miserable, when a large boy hove in sight and bore down upon me. Being "o'erwhelmed in woe," and not being accustomed to blind people, I did not get out of the way, and, like a certain redoubtable Jewish captain, he "trode me underfoot." He picked me up and dusted me down, and from that moment took me under his wing, and many a time saved me from the heavy hand of J. F. Tracey. My protector was Albert Siddall, who has done, and is doing such wonderful work for the blind. In later years I learned to appreciate the sterling qualities of J. F. Tracey, but at Worcester I looked upon him with dread unspeakable.

Another new boy who came to Worcester with me was Godfrey Mowatt, and we at once struck up a friendship which has lasted for over forty years. I should like to say a great deal about Godfrey Mowatt. The son of a distinguished father, he has rendered wonderful service to the cause of the blind. His friends are legion, and his activities innumerable, and his courtesy, energy, and winning personality have done much to bring about the increasing friendliness and co-operation between the National Institute and the Local Associations throughout the country.

To return to Worcester—the Rev. S. S. Forster was then Headmaster, a man of tremendous physical strength and considerable ability. In 1890, I left Worcester, and went to a private Tutor in Reading (Mr. J. M. West) who was himself blind, and had been an Assistant Master at Worcester. His coaching in history, classics and literature has stood me in good stead all my life. His opinion of me, I fancy, was not very high, but perhaps I have

at any rate done something to justify the trouble he expended on me.

From childhood it had been my great desire to take Holy Orders, and in due course I applied to Dr. Crichton, then Bishop of Peterborough, but he refused me on the ground of defective sight. I felt very sore at the time, but my admiration for him as a historian has always taken the sting out of his refusal, and I have not forgiven the Prime Minister who made him Bishop of London. London killed him, and a great historian was lost to the world. Why can't they make historians Deans so that they may have leisure to write history? A wiser Prime Minister made Dr. Hutton Dean of Winchester.

My parents had intended to send me to Oxford, and had put my name down for Oriel or University College, but in view of Dr. Crichton's refusal to ordain me on the ground of defective sight, it was thought better that I should forego Oxford, and go straight to the Theological College at Lincoln, as the Bishop, Dr. King, promised to ordain me if I passed the necessary examinations.

I went up to Lincoln and spent two very happy years there. Bishop King took me under his wing and showed me most wonderful kindness; he was indeed a Father-in-God, and it is not too much to say that we all loved him as sons. At the end of the two years I passed the Oxford and Cambridge examination, and was fortunate enough to pass out top in the Bishop's examination.

On Trinity Sunday, 1898, I was ordained Deacon; and at Trinity, 1899, Priest. I served my first Curacy at All Saints, Stamford, and in 1900 was appointed Curate-in-Charge, and, later in the year, Rector of Lusly-with-Asgarby in the Wolds of Lincolnshire, my Patron being Bishop King. In 1902, I married Miss Beatrice Rhodes, of Rotherham.

Having some leisure at Lusly I was able to do some writing and lecturing, being appointed a diocesan lecturer in History and Theology. Among other things I published two little books which are about to be published in Braille by the National Institute for the Blind. The first was a short story, "A little child shall lead them"; the chief and possibly only merit of this was that it enabled me to hand over a cheque for seventy guineas to the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street. The second publication was a text book on John Bunyan and the "Pilgrim's Progress."

In 1907, I was instituted to the Rectory of St. Mary Magdalene, in the City of Lincoln, the Patrons being the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln. This Parish has an interesting history; it includes the Cathedral up to the Sanctuary. The Dean, Precentor, and Subdean were among my parishioners. The original Church of St. Mary Magdalene was pulled down in the eleventh century by Bishop Remegius to make room for his new Cathedral. For about two hundred years the parishioners worshipped in the Cathedral, but in the thirteenth century a Church was built close to the Cathedral on the site of the present Church. Tradition has it that this was done because the parishioners disturbed the Dean and Chapter at their devotions. In 1643, the Church was practically destroyed at the siege of the Castle by the Parliamentary forces. The Church was rebuilt about 1690; the plan of the seating is still preserved in the parish chest. In 1881, the Church was beautifully restored under the direction of the late Mr. Bodley.

To continue my personal history. In 1905, I was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and at Lincoln continued lecturing work. The busy years from 1895-1911 made it impossible for me to do any very active work in the cause of the blind, and I had rather lost touch with the blind world. But in 1911 I received a telegram, asking me to preach in Exeter Cathedral, at the International Conference on the Blind. This Conference brought me once again into touch with workers for the blind, and I set myself to study their needs. In Lincolnshire little or nothing had been done in this direction, and I tried to get things started, and helped Miss K. M. Emery, who was working in the Eastern Counties. In February, 1914, we started the Lincolnshire Blind Association, and in June of that year I preached the opening sermon at the International Conference on the Blind in London. Here I first met Sir Arthur Pearson. I had a very interesting interview with him; he came to tea with me, and we had a long talk. During this talk a thunderstorm was in progress, and there was a particularly bright flash of lightning; he told me afterwards that this flash was the last thing that he ever saw. Just as we were beginning to get to work in Lincolnshire the War came, and till 1919 I could only give a small amount of time to blind work; but we managed to keep things going, and to some

extent enlarge our work. In October, 1914, I was appointed Chaplain to the 4th Northern General Hospital, and worked there with only a short break till the Hospital was demolished in 1919. We began in a small way —only, I think, about 100 beds. In 1919 we had accommodation for 1,400 officers and men. Our first convoy of first expeditionary force men was conveyed from the station to the hospital in furniture vans. At the end of the war we had a large convoy of ambulances and motor cars. I tried hard to get overseas, but without success, owing to defective sight, and, though refused a commission, was appointed Acting Chaplain to the Forces at home, receiving my Commission in 1921. From 1915-16, I also acted as Chaplain to the reserve battalion Lincolnshire Yeomanry.

In 1916, I was appointed to serve with the Royal Flying Corps, retaining as well my work at the Hospital. I was attached to a big flying camp, about three miles from Lincoln, going backwards and forwards daily between camp and hospital. It was ceaseless day and night work, as we generally got our convoys between 12 midnight and 5 a.m. It was terrible work—at the camp innumerable crashes, often fatal; at the hospital, smashed men shattered in body and mind, sick men, men horribly gassed, and for the Chaplain the tragedy of interviewing and trying to help fathers, sisters, mothers and sweethearts. Altogether an unforgettable experience; even now it is impossible altogether to shake off the tragedy of it all. I hate war, and pray daily for the end of all war. For the men themselves I shall always have the profoundest respect and affection. I received nothing but kindness from all ranks. Would that the comradeship of those war days could be brought into civil life! I could tell many stories (humorous and tragic) of those years; but if the reader has followed me so far he is probably getting tired of me—so to other matters.

Since the War I have been serving as a Territorial Chaplain, and am at the present moment Chaplain to the 4th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. I dread the time when advancing years will axe me out of the service.

In 1922, my wife passed away Our only daughter is now happily married to an officer in the Lincolnshire regiment. In 1924, I married Miss Hester Wright, of Willingham House, Market Rasen. In 1925, a son was born to us. In July of that year the Bishop of Lincoln appointed me to the Prebendal Stall of Langford Ecclesia in Lincoln Cathedral. I have had more than seventy predecessors in this Stall, the first Prebendary being appointed in 1320. There is a beautiful custom in Lincoln Cathedral that the Psalter is said daily by the Canons of Lincoln. This custom dates from the days of the great Bishop, St. Hugh of Lincoln. The titles of each Canon's Psalms are written in Latin over his Stall. I have four beautiful Psalms, 45-48 inclusive. By statute I have a preaching turn in the Cathedral on the 3rd Sunday after Trinity.

In 1926, I was appointed to the living of South Willingham by Lord Heneage, and returned joyfully to the country. This is a beautiful Rectory with a magnificent garden of nearly four acres. Unfortunately, the emolument of the living is not equally magnificent!!

To turn once again to work for the blind, we now have active societies covering the whole of Lincolnshire, every society carrying out the provisions of the Blind Persons Act, 1920. For the last nine years I have been Vice-Chairman of the Eastern Counties Association for the Blind, and during that time the work has been organised throughout the area. Now that the Association is an active force, I am resigning the Vice-Chairmanship, and am becoming more and more engrossed in national work, being a member of the Council of the National Institute and of its Publications Committee. I am retaining the secretaryship of the Lincoln Blind Society, but have relinquished that of the Lindsey Society, though I shall remain as advisor to the County Council. I dream of leisure for further writing, but I fear my dream will not be realised. Perhaps this is fortunate for the reading public!

As I end this somewhat lengthy article, we are on the eve of great events in the world of the blind. There is, I think, abundant cause for hopefulness; a better spirit pervades the workers for the blind, all are drawing closer together, old animosities are slowly but surely disappearing, and scientific discoveries are opening up new occupations and new spheres of usefulness for the blind. I am one of the old guard—Guy Campbell, Matthew Priestly, Godfrey Mowatt, Albert Siddall, Miss Merivale, Miss King, to mention but a few.

Bishop King used to say that he was tired *by* Confirmations, not *of* Confirmations ; we are tired *by* work for the blind, not *of* work for the blind. Keep the flag flying, you younger generation !—it is a great cause, and worth every sacrifice.

BOOK REVIEW

"MY RELIGION," By Helen Keller.

(Hodder & Stoughton, 6/-).

"I CANNOT imagine myself without religion," writes Miss Helen Keller. "I could as easily fancy a living body without a heart."

In Swedenborg's philosophy Miss Keller found the key to her own experience—a faith which emphasised what she felt so keenly, "the separateness between soul and body, between a realm that I could picture as a whole and the chaos of fragmentary things and irrational contingencies which my limited physical senses meet at every turn."

It is not our purpose to enter fully here into Swedenborg's teachings ; we are more nearly concerned with Miss Keller's adoption of his precepts. The life of this great mystic was in itself a lesson. Swedenborg was a scientist and inventor of no mean order, a Doctor of Philosophy, an Assessor in the Swedish College of Mines. He published a series of works on the general principles of science and philosophy. Honours were heaped upon him. But "the sorrows and oppression of mankind lay heavy upon his heart ; humbled, shamed in his soul, he beheld the cruelties of theology that rained damnation upon myriads of human beings." He deliberately turned his back on fame and fortune, and spent one-third of his life in comparative poverty, "comforting the hurt souls of his fellow-men with a humane, reasonable doctrine of faith and life." When fifty-six years of age it was, we read, vouchsafed to him to "see and to hear what takes place in the world of spirits." He abandoned his scientific work, believing it to be his mission "to search out and interpret the 'spiritual sense,' or sacred symbolism of the Scriptures, and that his experiences in the other world were to help him to understand truly the Word of God, and convey the most wonderful and beneficent truths to mankind."

Miss Keller gives a fascinating description of her initiation into Swedenborg's religion by Mr. John Hitz, the Swiss Consul-General in America. At the age of seventy Mr. Hitz taught himself Braille, so that he could write to his little friend, and for two years he devoted a part of each day to copying matters of interest and compiling books of explanation for her use. There existed a wonderful friendship between the old man and the young girl—still almost a child—and she never forgot the teacher who had so wonderfully opened the door for her into unsuspected realms. "He was," she says, "never too old to me, and I was never deaf and blind to him."

In this book she again describes how she emerged from darkness and silence into the light of knowledge by the aid of her teacher, Miss Sullivan, and then how all was illumined by the greater light of Religion.

However varied may be the religious opinions of those who read this book, they cannot fail to find pleasure in an account of the life of a great man, written by a remarkable woman.

E. G.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

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	PHILOSOPHY.	
Carlill, H. F.	Socrates ; and W. Russell Brain, Galatea	1
Whitehead, A. N.	Organisation of Thought ..	2
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Davison, C.	Origin of Earthquakes	1

In last month's Advertisement Column the Catalogue number of the N.I.B.'s Cross-Word Puzzle Board should have been quoted as 9221 instead of 21.

HANDBOOK ON HEALTH EDUCATION*



HE Board of Education has issued a Manual of Suggestions on health education for the use of teachers. Complementary to the Board's "Handbook of Suggestions for Teachers," the booklet puts before the teachers and all those interested in Child Welfare a statement of generally accepted principles of hygiene, and supplies them with subject matter for health practice and health talks to young children. This useful publication should be in the hands of every school teacher throughout the country, for, to quote from Sir George Newman's fascinating introduction: "The health and well-being of the child are the primary foundation of its education," and "the physical health and condition of the child are the basis upon which all mental education must necessarily be founded."

Perhaps many will be surprised to hear that upwards of 20 per cent. of the children attending schools are suffering from acute disease needing treatment. How much of this is due to the ignorance or neglect of past generations it is difficult to say, but there is no doubt that it is the duty of the school teacher to remedy this state of affairs as far as possible, and from the very beginning to show the precious human lives in his care how to attain health and happiness. As Sir George Newman rightly remarks, "The place of the physical in all true education is something which begins with infancy, and indeed before infancy, and goes on until the first day of life." He gives some very interesting information concerning Plato's recommendations in his "Republic," as to the teaching of music and training in gymnastics being the foundation of education:—

"By *music* Plato meant all that would make a true rhythm in the mind of man—literature, art and science, as well as the musical note and tone. He meant everything that would conduce to the highest and best, 'language, harmony and rhythm,'—the balanced man. By *gymnastic* he meant the two primary things, hygiene and physical exercise. In his view hygiene was mainly a matter of dietary and an open-air life, and exercise should aim, he said, not so much at producing mere strength as at development and education of the spiritual side of human nature." This relation of mind and body is, of course, realised to-day. Sir George says that from time to time a certain amount of teaching in hygiene was included in the school curriculum from the time of the establishment of national education in 1870. Since 1907, when the School Medical Service began, the teaching of hygiene has been directed by special syllabuses drawn on physiological lines and issued under the authority of the Board of Education. Valuable instruction has been given by this means to teachers and students in training colleges and children in the elementary schools, but there is room for vast improvement. The writer points out that there are three principal ways in which health may be both acquired and taught in youth:—

1. By habit training;
2. By learning the truths of biology, chemistry and physics, and
3. By understanding the principle and practice of good living itself.

He gives some practical suggestions as to how these lessons should be given at various ages, and describes the nature of the contents of the Manual.

From the suggested health talks the children will learn all about cleanliness, eating habits, fresh air, the way to breathe, the importance of sleep, the care of the eyes and ears. The second part deals with the subject of health lessons for older children. There are some very valuable notes provided, not to serve as lessons read to the children, but as suggestions for the information and guidance of the teacher. They include information concerning the human body, its forms and functions, the value of and reason for fresh air and sunlight, the importance of cleanliness, rest and appropriate clothing. The extreme importance of the care of the eyes throughout life may be impressed upon children when training them in particular habits:—"Thus the maximum amount of light should be allowed to come into the house; curtains should be such as can be completely drawn back to expose the whole of the window during the daytime; whenever possible, the light should come from the direction to the left of the child, and in any event strong cross-shadows should be avoided; school books should be of a suitable type, and children should be warned against reading badly-printed books

at home. The undesirability of ' glare ' should be recognised, and the risk of looking straight at the sun or any very bright light should be explained. Children should be encouraged :

(*a*) To report any difficulty they may find in seeing what is written on the blackboard, or when reading from a book, and

(*b*) To wear glasses if medically advised to do so, and at the times advised.

" Worried looks, frowning, blinking, face twitching, rubbing eyes, the book held too close to the eyes and headaches are early signs of eye strain, and call for attention. Eye strain left untreated leads to headaches and nervous conditions, and such affect the general health ; good physique will greatly aid in maintaining good eyesight." Care of the hearing is also insisted upon, examination of both sight and hearing, and care of the teeth. The mental aspect is discussed, it being urged that the child should be so taught that there is no fear of introducing medical or morbid ideas into his mind. " In all forms of health education it is important to avoid undue self-consciousness on the part of the child." There is a very interesting section concerning events in the history of preventive medicine as illustrated by lives of great pioneers in health, such as Jenner, Pasteur, Lister, and others.

Enough has been said to show that this handbook is not only useful, but absolutely necessary, to school teachers. Parents, too, would do well to study its contents.

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*Price 6d. net, Paper Cover; 1/- net, Cloth Bound. Obtainable from His Majesty's Stationery Offices.

MISS SMITH, of Bryn Willow, Paignton, will not continue her annual sales. As the National Institute for the Blind has now sufficient money in hand for the completion of the new edition of the Bible, the proceeds of the last sale at Bryn Willow were sent to the Institute for stereotyping the plates of a missionary book entitled, "Adventures with a Bible in Brazil," which the Institute is now bringing out. Miss Smith would like to take this opportunity of thanking all her kind friends who contributed their work to her sales.

STAITHES, in Yorkshire, has a blind town crier, Mr. George King.

PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND

IT will be remembered that in June of last year a public meeting, called by the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind, was held at the National Institute. On this occasion an address was given by Dr. Samuel P. Hayes, Director of Research at the Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind. Dr. Hayes, who has made a special study of the psychology of the blind, put forward some very interesting points and threw open a discussion which was conducted with much animation. We have now received a pamphlet written by Dr. Hayes, and entitled " Ten Years of Psychological Research in Schools for the Blind." For the guidance of beginners he gives a few facts as to the initiation of mental testing, which has only taken place within the last thirty-five years. M. A. Binet, the French psychologist, published his scale of tests in 1905 ; these were revised at later periods and were translated with some modification, in order to adapt them to American conditions, by Dr. H. H. Goddard, of New Jersey. In 1916, Dr. Lewis M. Terman published the " Stanford Revision," which is now the generally-accepted scale. It was suggested that testing methods should be introduced into American schools for the blind, and in his pamphlet, Dr. Hayes gives a survey of the work done in seven schools in 1919-1920. In 1916, the writer, having made a considerable preliminary study of the subject, experimented with various educational tests which had already been successfully used with the seeing, modifying and adapting them to the blind. As soon as a few of these tests had been thus adapted, they were used also in the Perkins' Institution for the Blind, and in the New York School for the Blind at Batavia. Dr. Hayes was appointed Director of Psychological Research at the Perkins' Institution. Seven schools were tested between 1919 and 1920, the results being reported at the Baltimore Convention of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind in 1920. Interest in the movement spread, and in order to make it possible for distant schools to use the tests, a pamphlet entitled " Self-Surveys in Schools for the Blind," was issued in 1921, a supplement being added in 1925. The writer reports that, although there was an increase in the use of the tests from year to year, the progress in schools for the blind is slow compared with the rate at which the movement has grown in

schools for the seeing. Mr. R. B. Irwin, with the assistance of Dr. Goddard, arranged a tentative series of short and simple tests, taking the Binet Scale as a basis. Dr. W. B. Drummond, working upon the tests of Mr. Irwin and Dr. T. H. Haines, published in 1920 a Binet Scale for the blind, and a provisional scale for the blind. Systematic routine testing had also been begun by the resident psychologists in the Perkins' Institution, the Batavia School, and the Pennsylvania Institution, and many pupils in seven other schools for the blind were also tested. By the year 1923 tests had been given to more than 1,200 blind or nearly blind children.

Raising the query as to whether a study of the psychology of the blind is superfluous owing to the number of books and articles which already exist on the subject, the writer contends that a considerable number of these books and articles are essentially unscientific and must be classed as " literature of opinion " rather than as " literature of fact." " The psychology of blindness," Dr. Hayes goes on to say, " is still in a stage from which the psychology of the seeing had evolved in the last decade of the nineteenth century. There have always been seers who have discovered truths about human nature without the help of scientific measuring devices, and expressed their conclusions in precepts and proverbs or immortalised them in poetry and song. There have always been natural teachers gifted with superior understanding of the young, who have fired their pupils with enthusiasm and opened their eyes to heavenly vistas. The blind have had their seers, their poets and their teachers, whose writings are often inspired and full of wise counsels ; but these writings, whether about the seeing or about the blind, are 'literature of opinion,' since they are based upon casual observation rather than upon controlled experiment. A half century ago the psychology of the seeing was in a similar intuitive stage, and only after many ' battles royal ' has psychology advanced from a general philosophy of life and conduct to a science based upon experiment—in education, in business, in psycho-theraphy."

Dr. Edward Allen, Director of the Perkins' Institution, some years ago sought information on the question of attention and concentration in the pupils, and this led to an investigation by Miss Maxfield of the conditions under which pupils studied, the types of distraction which disturbed them, and the halts and actions which acted as inhibitions or detracted from their higher efficiency. She published a " Personal Chart " for the assistance of teachers, and this work has been supplemented by Dr. Hayes, who gives lectures to the teachers upon the new psychology and mental hygiene, and chapel talks to the pupils, in which constant reference is made to motives and the psychology of conduct. He reports that there has been a gratifying change in the attitude of those who at first resisted the movement, and that both the American Association of Instructors of the Blind and the American Association of Workers for the Blind have afforded opportunity for further explanation of the work. " Modern educational psychology seeks to assist the schools in the classification or gradation of students according to their ability, to help pupils whose individual difficulties have been diagnosed by scientific measurement, and to give a basis for educational and vocational guidance as their abilities or disabilities point the way. It is our hope that ultimately research may do for the education of the blind what it has done for the educational system of the country as a whole."

BLIND WORKERS' EXHIBITION

IN connection with the Rossendale Society for Visiting and Instructing the Blind, an exhibition by local blind workers took place in the Mechanics' Hall, Bacup, on Saturday afternoon, 31st March. This was followed in the evening by a concert given by blind artistes of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society. A large number of people witnessed the exhibition, which reflected great credit upon the local blind people. Interesting features were demonstrations of centre cane work, stocking knitting, carpet making, chair seat making, and piano tuning, and the method of teaching blind children was shown by Mr. F. Rothwell, formerly of the Royal Normal College, London, and now a teacher at Mount Council School, Bacup. A number of appliances used by blind people sent from the National Institute for the Blind were also exhibited. Both the exhibition and the concert were a great success.

AN Easter exhibition and sale of Barclay Home products took place at Prince's Hotel, Hove, on the 4th April. Handwoven and knitted goods, and materials of every description were offered at attractive prices.

LIVING WHIST

THE Girls of the Secondary School, Douglas, Isle of Man, by their performances of Living Whist played on the Douglas Foreshore, have, during the past six years, raised the magnificent sum of £446 3s. 3d. for the "Sunshine" Homes for Blind Babies. Some of the boys also helped with the collection. The following are the totals for the separate years :—

Year.	£	*s.*	*d.*
1922	35	0	0
1923	60	2	0
1924	62	0	0
1925	60	0	0
1926	99	5	3
1927	129	16	0
	£446	3	3

A RESOLUTION of the Portsmouth City Council in favour of the payment of pensions to unemployable blind persons at thirty years of age instead of, as at present, fifty years, has been endorsed by the Derbyshire County Council. It was also decided to make such grants as would bring their income to 15/- per week ; the cost of these to the County was estimated at £2,650 per annum.

MODERN SONGS

ON Tuesday, 20th March, Mr. Sinclair Logan contributed eighteen distinctively "modern songs" in illustration of a lecture on this subject by Mr. Edwin Evans, at Mr. Percival Driver's studio in Hampstead. The songs, by Schonberg, Stravinsky, Bartok, Moussorgsky, Ireland, Bax, Vaughan Williams, etc., had all been memorised, and made a heavy demand upon the singer's power of interpretation. Mr. Logan rose fully to the occasion in each case, and received well-merited applause.

AN excellent record of public service is held by Mr. Henry Barrass and his blind wife, of Edmonton, who recently were returned at the head of the poll in the Edmonton Guardians' Election. Mr. Barrass topped the poll, and his wife was second with only twenty-nine votes less than her husband. In addition to being members of the Edmonton Board of Guardians, they both hold many other public appointments. Mrs. Barrass is an Urban District Councillor, a social worker, and President of the Co-operative Women's Guild.

How does the poet speak to men with power, but by being still more a man than they ?—*Thomas Carlyle.*



LIVING WHIST IN AID OF THE "SUNSHINE HOMES"

THE BLIND IN ITALY



E have received some interesting information concerning the education of the Blind in Italy. Since 1920 there has existed a National Association for the Civilian Blind and for those blinded in the War, called the Italian Blind Union, and managed by a number of young people whose leader is Tenente Aurelio Nicolodi, himself blind, and a very clever organiser.

The aim of the Association is to intensify propaganda on behalf of the blind, and to obtain from the Government new laws for the improvement of their education. In 1921 there was founded the National Federation of Blind Institutions, and the two Associations were enjoined by a Ministerial Commission to study the best ways of improving the education of the blind. Thanks to the fact that there were on the Commission two representatives who were directly interested in the question, the rapid solution of many problems was obtained, and in a short time the Government had passed satisfactory laws on the subject of the blind. In 1923, instruction until the age of fourteen was made obligatory in the case of both sexes. Two schools were instituted by Royal Decree, a few of the Institutions specialising in music and literature. In Rome the Government founded a Royal School for the Training of Teachers of the Blind under the direction of the well-known blind pedagogue, Mr. Augusto Romannoli. Besides concerning itself with the training of children and young people, the Italian Blind Union occupies itself with the problem of the more aged blind. It has opened workshops, and has interested the Ministry of Public Instruction in the matter of obtaining access for blind professors to the Government Examination for teaching in the Middle Schools of the kingdom. There are now twenty blind teachers in the Royal Middle Schools, and all have obtained excellent results. Recently, owing to the splendid activity of the President of the Union, a national lottery apportioned to the Society a sum of two million lires which, added to the previously existing capital, forms a solid basis upon which the activities of the Association are being sustained. In the year 1923, a National Braille Press was opened in Florence. This Press has seven stereotyping machines, and the annual output amounts to some thirty thousand volumes of music and literature. The following Reviews are published by the National Braille Press :—

1. *The Corriere Dei Ciechi.* Issued fortnightly in two editions, of which the one concerns blind matters, the other being purely literary.
2. *The Gennariello*, also a fortnightly publication, intended for the instruction and amusement of blind children, bringing them into contact with the sighted people among whom they will later be called to live, and giving the news of the more important events in Italy and abroad. This Review is sent gratis to any blind child from eight to sixteen years of age attached to the educational Institutions, the means being provided by an independent fund for the blind, due to the efforts of one Oreste Moggiolini, a sighted man who works untiringly for the sightless.
3. *Voce Della Musica* is a musical Review published in three editions, one containing musical novelties, the second opera scores, and the third concert reviews which are of use to musicians.
4. *Rivista Poliglotta Fischetti.* This polyglot Review was started in 1927, and is concerned in facilitating the study of foreign languages. It is published in six editions : Italian, French, German, Spanish, English and Esperanto, and gives graded exercises for translation, vocabularies, dialogues, and commercial and private letters. This Review has now become a monthly production.

There is also a Braille Musical Review published at the same office as the *Fischetti* Review, namely, *Via Santa Croce* 9, Vicenza.

Finally, *The Mani di Fata* is a Review designed to help blind women, and containing, among other matter, patterns of various handicrafts.

Thus it will be seen that there has come to Italy a new awakening with respect to the education of the blind. Last year yet another proof of the interest taken in this subject by Signor Mussolini was given by his enaction that occupation should be opened up to the

war-blinded in the military districts. In celebrating this event, the First Minister held a reception of his blind brothers-in-arms, led by their well-known colleague, Carlo Delcroix, who was blinded in the War, and also received injuries to both arms. He is now a Deputy of the Italian Parliament and President of the Association for Italian Disabled ex-Service Men, this honour having been conferred upon him on the 27th March, the anniversary of the foundation of the Fasci.

DRAMATIC READINGS AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

A MOST effective rendering of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray," on Tuesday, 3rd April, brought this season's series of Dramatic Readings to an end. Mrs. Flannery's very kind undertaking to arrange for a reading of modern plays on the first Tuesday of each month throughout the season has fully justified itself, for the audiences have greatly enjoyed these events, and a resumption of them in October will be looked forward to with much pleasure.

The readers entered into their various rôles with such dramatic feeling that the plays given have fallen little short of the performances in the theatre itself, the blind members of the audience in particular being able to picture the various scenes vividly, and readily grasp all the vital moments of the action.

Mrs. Flannery and her kind friends have given genuine enjoyment to those who do not often have the opportunity of attending theatres, and would not otherwise have become familiar with the plays given. These included :—

"Nothing but the Truth," by James Montgomery.

"The Young Person in Pink," by Gertrude Jennings.

"Outward Bound," by Sutton Vane.

"Hay Fever," by Noel Coward.

"The Bishop's Candlesticks," by Norman McKinnel.

"The Monkey's Paw," by Jacobs.

"Playgoers," by Pinero.

A word of cordial thanks is also due to Mr. H. J. Wagg, O.B.E., at whose kind suggestion Mrs. Flannery undertook to arrange these monthly readings. H.C.W.

GUILD FOR PROMOTION OF GARDENING

THIS Guild, now known as the "Guild for Promotion of Gardening Amongst the Blind and Partially Blind (Myope)," has made great progress during 1927. As in previous years, the work has fallen into two sections, namely :—

1. The instruction of blind and partially blind children in numerous schools for the blind, the partially blind and myopes.
2. Enrolment of registered members.

During the year eighteen additional members were enrolled, making a total of ninety. Seeds and other garden requisites are supplied to many registered members at a considerably reduced rate, and skilled advice given. Members exhibit at the Royal Horticultural Society's Show and the National Rose Society's Show, and compete for the prizes offered. It should be mentioned that the following homes and schools are affiliated to the Guild, namely :

The Eastern Road School for Blind Boys, Brighton ;

The National Institute Home for Blind Women, Brighton ; and

The Barclay School for Blind Girls, Brighton.

During the period under review two grants of £100 each were received from the National Institute for the Blind to which the Guild is affiliated, its address being that of the Institute's Headquarters.

A SONG Recital with Recitations, under the Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. the Princess Beatrice, in aid of the funds of the Guild for Promotion of Gardening amongst the Blind and Partially Blind (Myope), was held at Norfolk House, St. James' Square, on the 30th March, by kind permission of Her Grace the Duchess of Norfolk.

The recital was attended by a large audience, and proved a great success. The following Artists took part in the programme :—

Mrs. Adelaide Rind. Mr. Dawson Reed.
Miss Kathleen Rind. Mr. John Collinson.

A spirited appeal on behalf of the Guild was made by Dame Madge Kendal, who was introduced by J. Mowatt, Esq., J.P., of the National Institute for the Blind.

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

WOODWORK—I



PREVIOUS articles have dealt with some simple woodwork operations in which the amateur is helped by having his component parts almost ready to assemble, thus reducing the labour and skill necessary in making up the various things to a minimum. These ready-made helps to halting craftsmanship—more of which will be found described in the current *Handicrafts Annual*, 1s. from any bookseller or direct from Handicrafts, Ltd., Weedington Road, Kentish Town, N.W.5, and also in the catalogue of Hobbies, Ltd., Dereham, Norfolk—may well prove of great value to the sightless, and are, therefore, not to be despised. But the intention now is to approach the subject from the point of view of the craftsman; to take, so to speak, a bare board, and show how it can be fashioned into a thing of use, or manipulated by the home handyman for some garden or household erection or repair.



KNIFE BOARD AND TWO SOAP BOXES

The writer claims no special qualifications for such a task, but has had the benefit of the advice of one of the ablest blind carpenters in the country, and is thereby enabled to treat the subject from the correct angle and incorporate some useful hints and methods not to be found in the text-books. The examples given are elementary, assuming no previous knowledge on the part of the reader; having mastered them, he will be in a position to attempt more ambitious work, examples of which are everywhere around; or he can use the methods given here in the construction of other and equally simple things, or apply them to any woodwork job that comes to hand.

"Do the work as nearly as possible in the same way that it would be done by a sighted man," is the advice of the craftsman referred to above. That is to say, use screws for this, nails for that, glue for the other, and so on, whichever proceeding is considered appropriate in the sighted world. As will be shown later, results will be achieved by slightly different methods, but the appearance of the finished work ought not to differ from that produced in the ordinary way.

With regard to finishing, this, unfortunately, is beyond the powers of the sightless, with the exception of the oiled finish on oak, and possibly French polishing, if special training can be obtained. In the examples the wood is left bare, but when painting, etc., is required, sighted assistance must be requisitioned.

Coming now to the actual work, we shall require first of all a bench to which is attached a woodworkers' vice. The bench must be solidly constructed, about 2ft. 6in. in height, and with a top not less than 4ft. by 1ft. 6in. and 1in. in thickness, larger and stouter if circumstances permit; other items of equipment will be introduced as the need for them arises in working through the examples. For these soft wood such as yellow or white deal or yellow pine will be used, the wood being obtainable in boards of various widths and thicknesses at so much per *foot run*, which means that only the length of the board is taken into account, the price varying, of course, according to the width and thickness.

A KNIFE BOARD.—This is really nothing more than a shaped board to which is glued a piece of smooth linoleum, but it will

serve to introduce the greater part of the remaining equipment, although, of course, this particular job could, if necessary, be done with less. It is made from a ½in. by 6in. board, the length (20in.) being measured with an ordinary carpenters' 2ft. folding rule having a small nick cut or filed on one edge at every inch mark. Find the 20in. nick, and placing this at end of board, make a mark with a marking knife against end of rule. The try square is now used, the blade being placed even with the mark just made and a firm line made across board with the marking knife. The hand saw, which can be from 20in. to 26in. in length, is next required to cut the board across, the latter resting on a sawing stool or other support of convenient height. More will be said later regarding methods of accurate sawing, but it may be mentioned here that in using the hand saw long, steady strokes should be used, and on no account should it be forced or pressed into the wood, but allowed to cut by its own weight. Saws require periodical sharpening and setting, which can be done only by a practical sighted man, but the sharpening of the other cutting tools—and they must be sharp—can be carried out by the blind worker himself. The next process is that of " truing up " the sides and ends of our 20in. by 6in. piece, which is accomplished by the use of a shooting board. A useful size has a base-board 3ft. long by 11in. wide by 1in. thick, on to which is screwed a piece 7in. wide and ¾in. thick, and the same in length. At about 6in. from one end a cross piece is housed (an explanation of this term is given later) to the upper board exactly at right angles to the rebate or cutting face formed by the edge of the upper board, against which the plane works with its cutting edge in a vertical position, its side resting on the 4in. portion of the base. The wood is held against the cross piece with the edge to be trued up, slightly projecting beyond the cutting face, and the long try plane used to " shoot " the edge true ; mitres and any other angles can be " shot " with equal facility by nailing a cross piece on the upper board at the angle required. The try plane (or a finely-set jack plane) will be used for the preliminary smoothing of the board also, the latter resting on the bench with its end against a bench stop. More expensive, but very much more accurate than the ordinary wooden try plane, and, consequently, of very great help to the blind worker is the stanley No. 8 iron plane ; and even in the case of the small smoothing plane with which the final smoothing is done, an iron one is to be preferred to a wooden one. A. G. K.

(*To be continued.*)

THE Eighth Meeting of the E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held at the National Library, on Saturday, 12th May.

Professor Gilbert Murray, Mr. Robert Lynd, and Professor B. Macdonald have been good enough to undertake the judging.

The afternoon session will start at 3 o'clock.

NEWS ITEMS

GRATIFYING progress is stated to have been made since the re-organisation of the Workshops for the Blind under the supervision of the Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire Committee for the Care of the Blind. The total sales for the year up to the end of February amounted to £3,352, an increase of £505 as compared with the corresponding period of last year. All the departments are fully employed on contracts, including orders from the Stoke-on-Trent Corporation, for various kinds of brushes and baskets.

M. NICHOLAS TIGRANYEN, a blind composer, has adapted the folk-songs of his native country to European music. Hitherto it was believed that these folk-songs, which are closely related to the epics of Persia, could only be played on Eastern musical instruments.

BLIND workers at the Cleveland Institute for the Blind, at Middlesbrough, have achieved a record for the workshop by making 728 feet of double matting for a local firm, in seven days.

WANTED by **CHESTER SOCIETY** for the **Home Teaching of the Blind, HOME TEACHER and VISITOR** for part of Denbighshire. Commencing salary, £2, or £2 10s. weekly, according to qualifications. Apply, by letter, to The Organising Secretary, 13A Lower Bridge Street, Chester.

WANTED.—Home Teacher and Visitor for Lindsey Blind Society. Preferably one holding Home Teachers' Certificate. For particulars apply—H. Denham Smith, 6A Guildhall Street, Lincoln.

Capable Sighted Lady Home Teacher and Visitor Wanted. Apply, stating age, experience and qualifications, together with copies of three recent testimonials to :—The Secretary, Institution for the Blind, Roundhay Road, Leeds.

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the April Numbers)

Progress.—In Davy Jones' Locker—The Story of How the World was Made—Some Secrets of Bird Migration—The Japanese St. Francis—Old Mother Hubbard (Modern Version). Correspondence. Matters of the Moment.: N.L.B. Reading Competition; Geranium Day—Our Prize Competition—Advertisements—Strange Ways of Measuring Time—Miscellaneous—A Page of Nuggets—Question Box—French Page—The End of the Path—When Every Dog has Its Day—Travel Notes. Supplements: Chess; Home Occupations; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and Abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—Afghanistan and the Outer World—Henrik Ibsen—Book Reviews—Lost Allusions—The Amazing Meredith. Supplement; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Descants to Hymns—Tuners' Column—Notes and News Concerning the Blind—Advertisement—Answers to Rudiments' Paper—Eighty, Not Out—Obituary: H. Sandiford Turner and Sir Herbert Brewer—Special Notice—The Piano, Historically Speaking. Supplements: Braille Music Reviews; Announcements; Inset, Music Coupons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 6d. post free.)

Massage Journal.—Dietetics as a Factor in the Physical Development of Children—Official Notice—Review: New Book in the Massage Library—Extract from Letter from a St. Dunstan's Member—The Use of Exercises. Supplements: "Massage Journal" Inset: Rheumatoid Arthritis; Official Notices; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—A Gallant English Gentleman—The Story of Atalanta's Race—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—Running an Aquarium—Every Scout has his Star—Origin of Words. Supplements: Comrades; Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Moon Magazine.—"Her Majesty," by Frances Mary Campbell—Old Andrew's Experience as a Musician, by Thomas Hardy—Jacob's Ladder—Tying Up the World—How Do You Do?—Diamond Dramas—National Library, Reading Competition.

The Seeker.—Secretary's Notice—Catholicism and Humanity (Chap. 2)—The Mystery Teaching of the Bible, XII—The Apocalyptic Drama—The Dramatic History of the Christian Faith, IX—Constantine and the Triumph of Christianity—Buddhism III—The Four Noble Truths—The Idea of Re-incarnation.

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Science of Mathematics—Bills Before Parliament—News Items—The Poet's Corner—International Notes—Favourite Quotations—Branch Notes—Legal Notes—Correspondence—Advertisements—General Notices—Famous Guides and Directories. Supplements: Literary, "Jimmy Maxon," The World in Session, Telling the Story; Music, Puccini's "Madam Butterfly," Coupon's "Blue Skies," "Over the Meadow." Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

"Channels of Blessing."—The Uniqueness of Jesus—Into the Woods my Master Went—Psalm 67—Lord, Help me—Our Letter from India—The Jews—Longings—Victory Through Faith—The Power of Little Things—Why Did I Become a Temperance Worker?—A Royal Heart—A Spanish Witness—"Light in Darkness" Birthday League—In His Way—A Thanksgiving—Prayer Union—Gleanings. Inset: "Channels of Blessing" Supplement: The First Christian Council; The Lesson Illustrated. (6½d. per copy, post free, inland and abroad.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Résumé of Programmes Broadcast from all Stations of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

Twenty-Four Rolled into One for 7,500 Blind

GERANIUM DAY

TUESDAY, MAY 8th, has been fixed for "Geranium Day" this year. Helpers are urgently needed for this Great Appeal made by the Greater London Fund for the Blind (Registered under the Blind Persons Act, 1920). There will be depôts in every district.

WILL THOSE WHO CAN HELP SELL GERANIUMS, or assist in any other way, write to the Chief Social Organiser, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W. 1

Telephone - - - MUSEUM 9704

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1928

JUNE

Vol. XII No. 138

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

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The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

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2722-2726	" Cranford," by Mrs. Gaskell, 5 vols. (Limited Edition)	per vol.	12	0
2483	St. Luke, Chapter II (GIANT TYPE)		3	6

Continued on page 4 of Cover

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XII.—NO. 138. JUNE, 1928. PRICE 3D.
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RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE GREATER LONDON FUND



THE Greater London Fund for the Blind was established in 1921, by the National Institute for the Blind and the Metropolitan Workshops for the Blind, as a Central Fund to benefit the total number of blind in the Greater London area, that is, an area circumscribed by a circle of twenty miles radius from Charing Cross, including the Counties of London and Middlesex and portions of Kent, Surrey, Hertfordshire, and Essex.

For seven years this Fund has been managed by the Institute and administered by an Advisory Committee representing all parties concerned. Under the original agreement these associated bodies retained the right to issue separate and individual appeals, and these appeals continued, with one exception. The Institute itself, desiring to achieve unification of collections, almost entirely ceased to make separate appeals in the specific area, and threw its former collecting machinery into the common pool.

Conducted on business-like lines and based on the sensible desire to minimise overlapping in collecting activities, the Fund steadily progressed, and gradually the scope of its usefulness widened. Not only have the net proceeds of the Fund been distributed each year amongst the participating bodies in agreed proportions, but additional allocations have been made to other societies working for the blind of London.

Amongst these were the Metropolitan and Home Counties Associations which, with similar Associations covering the country, were formed to put into force the provisions of the Blind Persons Act of 1920. These County Associations had only just begun to appear when the Greater London Fund was originated, and were, therefore, not taken into account when the agreement was framed.

Now readers of THE BEACON will recollect that, in 1925, a Scheme—approved by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health—for the Unification of Collections for the blind throughout England and Wales was adopted by the National Institute and that, forthwith, negotiations were opened by the Institute with local agencies in different parts of the country. These negotiations have resulted in the formation of agreements broadly based on the principle of securing complete unification of collections, and the establishment of amicable and useful relationships between national and local agencies, including the newly-formed County and County Borough Associations.

It will readily be seen, therefore, that as the Greater London Fund had been initiated prior to the functioning of County Associations in the area covered by the Fund, the principles on which the Fund was based could not be in complete harmony with the principles of the Unification Scheme as applied in other parts of the country.

Accordingly, in 1926, representatives of the Metropolitan and Home Counties Associations were invited to discuss with representatives of

the National Institute and of the Metropolitan Workshops, the question of re-organising the Greater London Fund, so that collecting for the blind in the London area could be brought into line with the collecting arrangements then being negotiated throughout England and Wales.

All parties concerned at once agreed that it was no longer practicable for the Greater London Fund to continue to collect in small portions of several counties, as this prevented a proper application of the principles of the general Unification Scheme.

On this basis of agreement, two schemes of revision were prepared by members of the Institute's Council and circulated. Later, a third scheme was drawn up by the Workshops, and in December, 1926, the Institute's Council appointed a strong Committee to examine this scheme, and gave the Committee authority to issue three months' notice of the termination of the existing agreement with the Workshops as and when it was considered necessary, with a view to the substitution of a new and more comprehensive scheme.

The first meeting between this Committee and representatives of the Workshops took place in January, 1927, and negotiations continued throughout the year, with a draft agreement, drawn up in March, as the basis of discussion. In June, although complete unanimity of opinion had not been reached, it was felt that sufficient progress had been made to justify the issue of the three months' notice mentioned.

Meanwhile, an arrangement had been made between the National Institute and the National Library for the Blind by which the National Library became a party to all agreements made or to be made between the National Institute and local agencies. Accordingly, the draft agreement in respect of London was revised to include the National Library as a consenting party.

Simultaneously with the issue of the three months' notice, an invitation was extended to the Workshops to accept the new agreement, and intimation of this was given to the County and County Borough Associations concerned. But in July, the Workshops pressed for an extension of the period of the existing agreement till the end of December, 1927.

The Institute agreed to this postponement on finding that the main difficulty of the Workshops in accepting the new agreement was their inability to secure from their County Councils the financial assistance which might render unnecessary separate appeals to the public outside London for the support of their respective activities. As a clause in the draft agreement provided for the restriction of such appeals in the interests of complete unification, the National Institute and the Workshops decided to put the matter before the Ministry of Health. A deputation was received at the Ministry, and the attitude of the Ministry was such that the Workshops decided to accept the new agreement with the proviso that the clause restricting separate collections should not come into force unless and until such financial arrangements had been made by the Ministry of Health and the County Councils concerned as would preclude financial loss to the Workshops. Accordingly, notice of the termination of the old agreement was forthwith given, the new agreement taking effect as from the 1st April, 1928.

To some it may appear that these negotiations were unduly prolonged. But if any such critics had even a slight idea of the difficulties that have to be overcome in framing an agreement which, to be workable, must be entirely satisfactory to thirteen parties representing many diverse, though kindred, interests, they would join with us in congratulating all concerned in having eventually arrived at a settlement which must surely benefit the whole body of blind people in the Greater London area. As an example of the amicable spirit maintained through long and intricate negotiations, it is of interest to note that, as the County Associations concerned expected that the new agreement would come into force on the 1st January, 1928, the National Institute and the other parties to the Greater London Fund agreed to make up the extra percentage of money which should have fallen to the County Associations during January, February and March, from the money collected during those months by the existing Greater London Fund staff, the Institute contributing two-thirds from its own share, and the other parties the remaining third from their share.

The parties to the new agreement are the National Institute and the National Library for the Blind; the following Workshops:— Barclay Workshops for Blind Women; Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead; Incorporated Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind; London Association for the Blind; London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind; Workshop for the Blind

of Kent; and the following Associations :— Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind; Kent County Association for the Blind; Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association for the Blind (contracting in this case in respect of its London area only and without any intention to bind any of the adjacent Counties' Associations); Middlesex Association for the Blind; Surrey Voluntary Association for the Blind.

The Essex Voluntary Association is not a party to this agreement, as it was drawn up while the Association was being re-organised; neither is the Hertfordshire Society, which prefers to deal with the County of Hertford as a whole. It is possible that the East Ham Welfare Association may come into the agreement later, but at the moment, it prefers to deal with its main work of relief separately. With these exceptions, the parties to the agreement include practically all the responsible bodies working for the blind of London particularly, but maintaining a sense of their national responsibilities.

The new agreement provides that, for the first year of its operation, 45 per cent. of the net proceeds will be paid to the Workshops; 35 per cent. to the National Institute and the National Library in proportions agreed upon between those two bodies; and 20 per cent. to the County Associations. The deed provides for a revision of the distribution at the end of a year.

The Fund is controlled by a Committee consisting of six representatives from each group under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ormond A. Blyth, Chairman of the Incorporated Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Blind. The Vice-Chairman is Mr. P. M. Evans, M.A., LL.D., Chairman of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties' Association for the Blind; and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. J. Wagg, O.B.E., Hon. Secretary of the Barclay Workshops for Blind Women. The Secretary is Mr. H. C. Preece, and the Fund continues to occupy premises at the National Institute for the Blind, at 224-8 Great Portland Street, W., although, of course, independent of the Institute's management. The Patron of the Fund is H.R.H. Princess Royal; the President, the Lord Mayor of London; while Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., is a Vice-President.

We feel sure that this short account of the re-organisation of the Greater London Fund will interest all who have the welfare of the blind at heart, because the bare facts are the best illustration of the spirit prevalent amongst agencies for the blind to-day. It is the spirit of harmony—a spirit which is earnestly seeking the best means for helping the blind as a whole to progress along the paths they are so eager to follow—a spirit which breeds negotiation instead of criticism and dissolves discord in agreement.

THE EDITOR.

G. L. F. SOCIAL EVENTS

THE months of March and April were crowded with engagements too numerous to mention, at all of which an appeal for the support of "Geranium Day" has been made.

Concerts have been given at Tottenham (two), Camden Town, Southall, Eltham, Leyton, Kilburn, Grays, Wandsworth, Leytonstone, Hampstead, North Finchley, Erith, Bowes Park, New Malden, Mill Hill, Ilford, Merton Road, St. Pancras, Ickenham, Upper Holloway, Tooting, Fulham, Kenley, Peckham, Wimbledon, and Balham. Blind artistes also assisted at many Sisterhood Meetings, and appeared in conjunction with such well-known sighted artistes as Miss Nellie Norway, Miss Mollie Seymour, and pupils of Mrs. Lister Guest at Carshalton.

A concert which must receive special notice was that held on 16th March, in North St. Pancras, when Captain Ian Fraser, M.P., was the principal speaker. Miss Mavis Bennett, Mr. A. E. Nickolds, and the Italia Conti Children were among the artistes who delighted a packed audience numbering over one thousand. "Helpers of the Blind" arranged many of the concerts mentioned, lecture-recitals, and a three-day display of the film "The Inner Vision," at Catford.

Sir Beachcroft and Lady Towse received representatives of the "Helpers of the Blind" and "Geranium Day" workers on 22nd March, at the New Burlington Galleries. Sir Michael O'Dwyer spoke eloquently of the work of the Fund. Among those present were the Mayors and Mayoresses of the Royal Borough of Kensington, Finsbury (together with the deputy Town Clerk) and Lewisham. A delightful concert was provided by Miss Helena Millais, Madame Anita Sutherland, Mr. Ernest Whitfield, and Mr. Sinclair Logan.

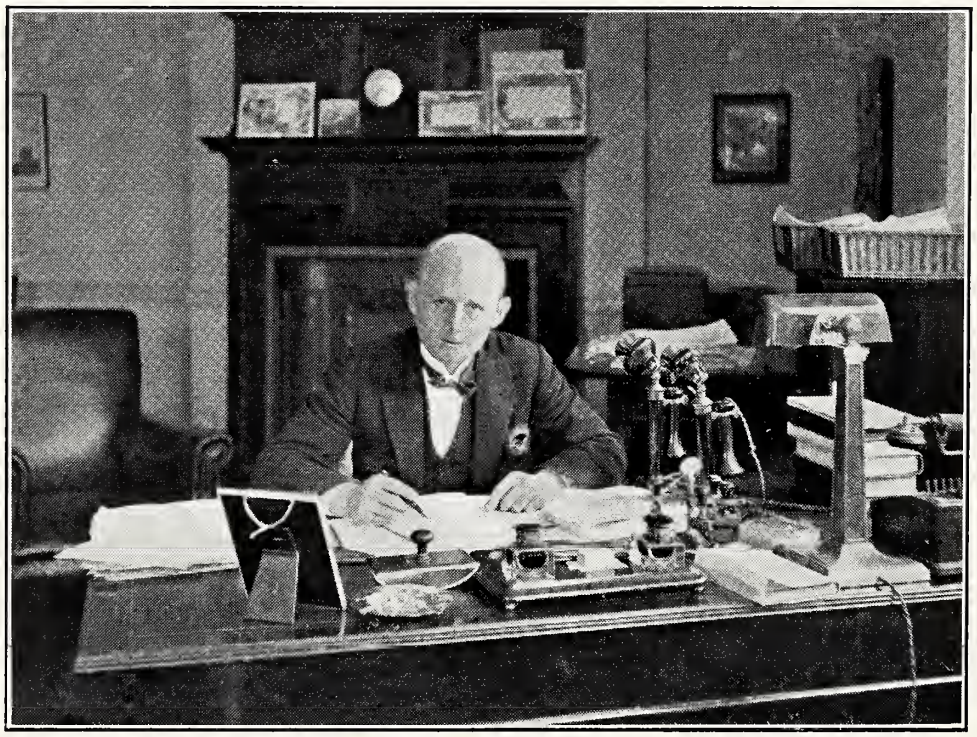
A BRILLIANT CAREER

A few details relative to Mr. W. McG. EAGAR, recently appointed Secretary-General to the National Institute for the Blind



MR. W. McG. EAGAR is known as "Mac" to hundreds of boys and men in the poorer parts of London across the bridges. But that is no excuse for people who ought to read more carefully calling him Mr. McEagar. Many do. He hopes that the staff of the National Institute for the Blind won't!

He has been described as the happiest man in London, and as a terrific worker; it is perhaps evidence of there being some truth in the first description that he thinks work the first element of happiness. In any case, fate has been kind to him. Born in Cornwall, and brought up in the depths of a countryside exquisite with woods and tidal creeks, he was thrown into the heart of London at the age of eight, when he became a chorister at St. Paul's. Singing under the Dome for six years filled his mind with music, and the present Bishop of London, coming fresh from Oxford House in Bethnal Green, brought into the Cathedral precincts a new sensitiveness to the harsh environment of the millions who live east of the Bank and south of the Thames. Becoming, in due time, an undergraduate at Exeter College, Oxford, Mr. Eagar fell into the habit of spending some of his vacations at the University Settlements, and after some years of schoolmastering and private tutoring, he settled down at the Oxford and Bermondsey Club in 1912.



MR. W. McG. EAGAR.

There good hap followed him. The group of Oxford men then living in Bermondsey, working for their livings by day, and managing in the evenings clubs for boys and men, included several men of mark. One of them, Donald Hankey, introduced Mr. Eagar to care committee work in the schools, and thousands of cases and home visits taught him accurately the facts of home-life in an area where employment is spasmodic and rough. He gathered boys from the streets and the yards of bleak block dwellings into a club, which grew into one of the biggest, and, as he declares, the best in South London. Life rapidly became strenuous, and he filled in the chinks by making a housing survey of Bermondsey and Southwark.

The outbreak of war found him assistant-director of the Borstal and Central Associations under the Home Office. In this capacity he was responsible for the after-care of all discharged convicts, as well as the boys from Borstal, and his acquaintanceship with burglars, efficient and inefficient, is still extensive. For reasons too long to enter on here, he found himself classed as an "indispensable" before August of 1914 was over, and he was able to break away only in 1916. Almost immediately on landing in France he became Intelligence Officer to his brigade of field artillery, and as such survived a rich variety of experience until a horse ignominiously knocked him out in the week of the Armistice.

He returned to the boys' clubs, and for a time to prison work. But the housing question was looming heavily on a horizon rosy with post-war hopes, and he jumped at an invitation to join Dr. Addison's housing staff. To his work as Administrative Inspector of the

London Housing Board he brought close knowledge of actual conditions ; and when all the pressure was to build more and more houses he was known as the " Ginger Department." Later the Housing Board was axed, and Mr. Eagar went to join Captain Reiss in propaganda work at the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association. He was there when Mr. Lloyd George invited him to organise a new enquiry into the land question : for a year Mr. Eagar ran two offices, but the land enquiry grew in scope and intensity, and eventually absorbed all his time. Mr. Eagar wrote " The Land and the Nation," and " Towns and the Land," the—shall we say notorious ?—Green Book and Brown Book ; and without pausing for rest, formed and built up the Land and Nation League, a new political organisation created to preach the new land policy. Hardly was this in being when Mr. Lloyd George asked him, while retaining his post as General Secretary of the League, to organise the Liberal Industrial Enquiry, the report of which, known to politicians as the Yellow Book, appeared in February of this year.

From political organisation to the executive work of the N.I.B. is an unusual step. But in Mr. Eagar's case party politics were an accident. Getting things done was the essence. His office at Old Queen Street was once referred to as " the most efficient office of its kind in London." Certainly he has always made it his aim to organise and administer non-commercial undertakings with as scrupulous attention to economy and output as would be given in a business house. He brings to his new work a wide and varied experience attested by his standing in a number of national bodies such as the National Council of Social Service, National Playing Fields Association, British Federation of Settlements, and National Association of Boys' Clubs. Most valuable perhaps is that, to many of the problems of the blind, he brings an open mind, and with it a keen desire to be of service.

We feel sure, therefore, that Mr. Eagar will carry with him in his new work the sincerest good wishes of all readers of THE BEACON, and of everyone who, through experience, knows that " the right man in the right place " —especially when that place is that of the Chief Executive Officer—is the greatest boon any Institution or Society can ask for.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

THAT gratifying progress has been made since the re-organisation of the workshops in which blind persons are employed under the supervision of the Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire Committee for the Care of the Blind, is evidenced by the fact that the total sales for the year up to the end of February amounted to £3,352 5s. 6d., an increase of £505 15s. as compared with the corresponding period of last year, and the increase up to the end of March is estimated at £850. All the departments are fully employed on contracts, including orders from the Stoke-on-Trent Corporation for scavenging brushes, horse brush refills, and all brushes and baskets required for the maternity home. Improved support has also come from the local business houses.

WHEN the Committee for the Care of the Blind met at Hull recently, attention was called to the practice of blind people who continued to place themselves in the position of soliciting alms, despite the fact that they were in receipt of an allowance from the Corporation on condition that they refrained from begging. An announcement has been made in the following terms :—

> " That every blind person wandering abroad, or visiting houses or other buildings, or placing himself or herself in any place, street, highway, court or passage, to gather alms (whether by means of singing, playing of musical instruments, fortune telling, or other means or methods), or causing any child or children or other person to do so on his or her behalf, shall not be allowed to participate in the scheme." The Committee has adopted the edict.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to 15th May, 1,194 wireless sets and 1,478 pairs of headphones have been distributed among the blind, the local Associations acting as distributing centres. As a result of the appeal, 397 wireless sets and 209 pairs of headphones have been received.

Donations from private sources and grants from the National Institute for the Blind have enabled the Fund to provide the difference between the number of sets received and distributed.

THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE BLIND



ON Wednesday, 25th April, a large number of people interested in the cause of the blind assembled to hear a paper read by Mr. J. M. Ritchie, M.A., Ph.D., on the education and training of the blind. Dr. Ritchie made a comprehensive survey of his subject, leading up to modern methods, and then gave an expert account of the psychology of the blind. The preliminary remarks contained matter well known to our readers. Dr. Ritchie spoke of the pioneer efforts made and the Acts of Parliament passed on their beha'f.

Having given examples of the unfortunate results of home-life in certain instances of blindness, he passed on to an explanation of the Braille System and the apparatus used in connection with the studies of the blind. He then discussed the mentality of the blind child. This problem, he said, was complicated by the fact that less than half the children in blind schools were totally blind. The one great primary difference between a child who had been totally blind from birth or infancy and his fellows was that visual imagery as well as sight was denied. . . . . "In the daily life of the ordinary human being it is difficult to exaggerate the part played by sight and its concomitant visual imagery, and it is not too much to say that most people regard life from the standpoint of vision. . . . Instead of sight and pictorial memory the blind have muscular and tactual sensations and images. To the average man tactual images can be little more than a phrase. Any image of this sort which he may form is at once jostled out of the focus of attention by the overwhelmingly vivid pictorial representation. The blind man's images are always tri-dimensional ; the ordinary man's are seen and remembered upon a plane background, and must be overridden and corrected by his knowledge of the third dimension. This initial difference between the mind of a man born blind and that of a normal citizen naturally gives rise to secondary effects which ramify in many directions. At the same time the warning must be expressed that generalisations are dangerous. Temperament is more fundamental than blindness. The common statement, for instance, that blind people are introspective, could be more accurately stated. Blind people are merely a fortuitous cut from the general population, and, therefore, will include roughly the same proportion of introverts and extroverts. All the same it is patent that the effects of blindness will be to drive a man in upon himself and so aggravate introspection. Facts such as these present intensely interesting problems to the teacher of the blind." Dr. Ritchie touched on one other secondary effect of blindness which might, he said, be regarded as a short digression on the topic known as defence mechanism. This was " the common weakness of many blind people to indulge unduly in big words, both in speaking and writing. The modern cult of the conversational in style leaves them cold. They roll the polysyllabic phrase lovingly round their tongue and quickly respond to like eloquence in others . . . . . Could we not trace in this mental phase a revolt against the galling conviction of the blind man's inferiority ? His subconscious mind sets about redressing the balance. If he is handicapped in regard to vision, there are other regions of activity in which no disability exists. The use of words is one of these, and he strives by exaggeration of literary language to show his superiority to the average man. For the same reason he makes much of the mistakes that seeing people commit."

Having stressed the importance of the physical development of the blind, the speaker went on to discuss the profound difference in the problems which face the school for blind and the school for seeing children. Hardly any ordinary school sets out with the professed aim of training its pupils for this or that definite occupation ; its ideal is to develop and strengthen the character and powers of its pupils in an all-round manner. On the other hand, a school for blind children has to prepare its pupils for the trade at which it is hoped they will afterwards make their living. The same principle of continuity again comes into force at the close of technical training, and specialised workshops for blind operatives are established and maintained all over the country.

In conclusion, Dr. Ritchie said that although the old days of unaided philanthropy had passed away, and there was appropriate machinery at hand for assistance in every stage of life, blindness was a severe disability ; and even with all the help, both State and charitable, both paid and voluntary, that was ready to be placed at his disposal, the blind citizen who made good was one of whom his country should be proud.

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

Miss HELEN KELLER



WE are privileged to be able to reproduce the following account of Miss Helen Keller's life, recently written:

What a miracle it is that education has made it possible for Helen Keller to appreciate the beauties of life. I know of no one who is so impressionable to all kinds of beauty as she is, and few people have such powers of expression. I gladly accepted an invitation to tea at her home, so that I might have the inspiration which a visit to her always gives me. I wish I might take some of my far-away friends to see her.



Miss Helen Keller and her Teacher

The trio who compose the family in Miss Keller's home make an interesting group, and each individual is most distinctive. When Miss Keller was nineteen months old she was made blind and deaf from an attack of scarlet fever. Much concerned over her daughter's condition, Mrs. Kate Adams Keller was happy to read in Dickens' *American Notes* of the deaf-blind Laura Bridgman, who had been taught by Dr. S. C. Howe, in Perkins' Institution for the Blind, Boston. But when Mrs. Keller remembered that Dr. Howe had been dead many years, she despaired for the future of her little afflicted daughter. Captain Keller took Helen to see Alexander Graham Bell, in Washington, D.C., and it was he who advised that Captain Keller appeal to Perkins' Institution for the Blind, in Boston, for a teacher. At that Institution, Miss Anne M. Sullivan, now Mrs. John A. Macy, was found as best fitted to teach the little girl. In March, 1887, when Helen was seven years old, Miss Sullivan went to the Keller home at Tuscumbia, Alabama, and became the companion, friend and teacher of little Helen. Through her guidance, patience and perseverance, Helen Keller was taught until she graduated from Radcliffe College in 1904, this astounding educational feat being accomplished in spite of "traditional pedagogical limitations." Miss Keller is the author of many books—I am sure you have read some of them—and a public speaker of prominence.

Living in the home with Miss Keller is Mrs. Macy, still her companion and friend. Mrs. Macy is a graduate of the Perkins' Institution of Boston, and understands the blind, not only as a teacher, but as one afflicted, for when she was fourteen years old she was almost blind, although her sight was later partially restored. Rarely gifted as a teacher, through sympathy, intellect and deepest affection she has been able to help Helen Keller overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. The third member of the family is Miss Polly Thomson, whose charming Scotch accent makes her a delightful companion, and whose helpfulness is a large part of the friendly atmosphere in this home. When I entered the companionable, bookish

living room, admitted by the Korean helper, I was welcomed by Helen Keller, who recognised me instantly by the touch of my hand. Mrs. Macy was there and the dog, Sieglinde, the Great Dane protector of the family, and Miss Thomson, who was preparing the tea. We conversed about the coming election and other current events. And then, without any suggestion that my hostess had not physical eyes to see, we went into detail about the miracle of the coming Spring. She listened to me by placing the first two fingers of her left hand on my lips and the thumb on my throat. She talked to me by use of oral speech. I never ceased to marvel at her ability to express herself in this way. When she was thirteen years old she took a few lessons from Miss Sarah Fuller, of the Horace Mann School for Deaf, in Boston, and then, during two years' time, when she was fourteen and fifteen, she studied lip reading and speech at the Wright-Humason School in New York. She has said of this, one of her greatest accomplishments, " Let no one imagine that I found it an easy task to speak well. On the contrary, nothing that I have ever accomplished has cost me more dearly in time and effort ; and whatever facility I have acquired in speech has been gained only by hard and constant practice, and by Miss Sullivan's unfailing watchfulness." With radiant enthusiasm, and in the most expressive language, she told me of the American Foundation for the Blind, and the effort which is being made to raise a fund of two million dollars. She and Mrs. Macy were asked to help in raising that fund.

Having explained the activities of the Foundation for the Blind she went on to say, " By the merest chance I was taught. If my mother had not read in Dickens' *American Notes* about Laura Bridgman, and my father had not appealed to Dr. Bell, I never would have had the opportunity to learn. Many have heard my story, many have read it. I am forty-seven years old, and it is forty years since my Teacher came to me, and still the problem of the deaf-blind children is unsolved. The hearts of the people must be reached for those who are doubly afflicted, so that through education the doors of opportunity may be opened to them. Without education I might have been left in dark, sightless imprisonment. There must be money to help the afflicted, so that they may have a chance to develop and live cheerful and useful lives. Now you understand, don't you, why my Teacher and I must leave home so often and do what we can to help ? "

The yard in Miss Keller's home is always attractive to me, because the flowers and the shrubs are her friends. And around this yard is a path where she walks and walks for daily exercise, the path which she calls her " sunshine circle." The shrubs and flowers she knows by name, and the colour of each one she can tell by her marvellous touch. The feathered friends find water in a charming little bird bath, which is adorned by a little marble statue, " Rebecca at the Well," the most symbolic thing in all the garden. How I wish you could see that symbol and hear her tell what it means ! As a little girl of seven, when water gushed from the spout of a well on one of her hands, Miss Sullivan spelled over and over again into her other hand W–A–T–E–R. This is the way she describes the transforming experience of her life in her autobiography :—" I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the movements of her fingers. Suddenly I felt a mystic consciousness as of something forgotten, a thrill of returning thought ; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew then that W–A–T–E–R meant a wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free."

Perhaps the most interesting room in the house is the third-floor study and sleeping room of Miss Keller. This room has windows on three sides, and from it there is a wide view of the meadows beyond. Helen Keller loves the smell of the meadows and the feel of the open country, which is hers from that study. In this room are not only a dresser and typewriter, but a cabinet of Braille books. She can use the Corona or Remington typewriters interchangeably, and in College she used the Hammond, which had attachments for Greek and French and mathematical symbols. In that third-floor study she is writing a new chapter of her epoch-making book or autobiography, which, as it is printed to-day, lacks the story of the ripening of her great spirit in the last twenty-five years.

Her life is based upon the religion which Phillips Brooks taught her as a little child. For it was he who made plain the great eternal truths to this little eager soul, seeking to find out the mystery of life. " There is one universal religion, Helen," said Bishop Brooks to her, " the religion of love. Love your

Heavenly Father with your whole heart and soul ; love every child of God as much as you can, and remember that the possibilities of good are greater than the possibilities of evil ; and you have the key to Heaven." For one who has accepted that kind of religion there is nothing to do but to help raise the fund that those who are blind may be taught to see.

Pedagogically, Helen Keller's case is one of the most interesting in the whole history of education. I am sure it will grip you as it has me. Mrs. Macy writes in explanation of how she taught language to her pupil, " I never taught language for the *purpose* of teaching it, but invariably to use language as a medium of communication of *thought*; thus the learning of language was co-incident with acquisition of knowledge. In order to use language intelligently, one must have something to talk *about*, and having something to talk *about* is the result of general *culture*."

In speaking of what books have been to her, Helen Keller says, " I read my first story two months after my Teacher came to me, and ever since, books and I have been loving friends and inseparable companions. They have made a bright world of thought and beauty all around me; they have been my faithful teacher in all that is good and beautiful ; their pages have carried me back to ancient times and shown me Egypt, Greece, and Rome ; they have introduced me to kings, heroes, and gods ; they have revealed to me great thoughts, great deeds."

I have told you in the beginning of this letter how Helen Keller appreciates the beauty in this world. One explanation of the development of this side of her nature is to be found in her primary teaching. Mrs. Macy says of this phase of her training, " Very early in her education I led her to observe and describe flowers and animals. A flower or insect often furnished material for a long and intensely interesting language-lesson. I would catch an insect and allow Helen to examine its tiny wings, antennae, and plump little body ; then she would open her hand, and bidding it a tender good-bye, let it fly away in the sunshine. The vegetable garden and her mother's flower garden, her numerous pets and domestic animals were a never-ending source of instruction and enjoyment to her ; and in thus being brought in close touch with nature, she learned to feel as if every blade of grass had a history, and to think of every bud as if it were a little child, and knew and loved her.

" The child who loves and appreciates the wonders of the outdoor world will never have room in his heart for the mean and low. Such a child will have risen to a higher plane, and in a wise study of God's laws in nature he will ever find his highest joy."

How the world would be transformed if every boy and girl could have such an introduction to " God's Out-of-Doors ! " It would be a wise expenditure, it seems to me, to place in the hands of every teacher a description of Mrs. Macy's methods with her famous pupil, with particular emphasis on the ways of teaching nature and language. Surely teachers of the blind must be willing disciples of this one whom Helen lovingly calls " Teacher."

In preparing for College she was a student in Cambridge School for Girls, of which Mr. Arthur Gillman was Director, and for a time she was privately tutored by Mr. Merton S. Keith, until she passed the Radcliffe Entrance Examinations in the Summer of 1899. Covering the period of her preparation for College, Mr. Keith writes : " In cases like Miss Keller's it seems to me that good teaching and proper environment are even more necessary than in the case of the common student." Mr. Gillman writes that her entrance to Radcliffe was remarkable, " especially when we consider that Helen has been studying on strictly college preparatory lines for one year only . . . . . ." With thirty-seven class-mates she was awarded the Degree of Bachelor of Arts on the 28th June, 1904, coupled in her case with the distinction *cum laude*, and the additional words in Latin inscribed on the diploma :—" Not only approved in the whole academic course, but excellent in English letters."

Miss Keller reads Latin, French and German, and speaks the last two languages perhaps better than she speaks English. She is particularly fond of Virgil, and she seems to see the inner meaning of the great Roman poet. Mr. Keith has written :—" I believe Miss Keller is capable of giving the world at some future time in rhythmical prose a new version of Virgil, which would possess high and peculiar merit." The Bible is her favourite study, and the Book of John and the Psalms are her particular inspiration.

As remarkable as is her intellect, her winning personality and sweetness of spirit are equal to it. When she was thirteen years old her teacher said of her : " It is Helen's loving

and sympathetic heart rather than her bright intellect which endears her to everybody with whom she comes in contact. She impresses me every day as being the happiest child in the world, and so it is a special privilege to be with her. The spirit of love and joyousness seems never to leave her. May it ever be so! It is beautiful to think of a nature so gentle, pure and loving as hers; it is also splendid to think she will ever see only the best side of every human being. While near to her the roughest man is all gentleness, all pity; not for the world would he have her know that he is aught but good and kind to everyone. So we see, pathetic as Helen's life must always seem to those who enjoy the blessings of sight and hearing, that it is nevertheless full of brightness, courage, and hope."

HANDBOOK FOR HOME TEACHERS*

THE first edition of the Handbook for Home Teachers which appeared in 1925 has fully justified its existence. The need for such a book arose when the examination for home teachers was instituted in 1923. A second and revised edition has now been published, containing the previous matter brought up-to-date. Four entire chapters have also been added, namely, those on "The Work of a Home Teacher in Rural Areas," "National Health Insurance, Unemployment Insurance, and Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Pensions," "Suggestions to Teachers," and "Some Suggestions for the Prevention of the Causes of Blindness."

It will be recognised that all four subjects are of the greatest importance, and that they should be duly studied by the intending home teacher. In her chapter on the "Work of a Home Teacher in Rural Areas," Miss Augusta M. Fripp explains how greatly the blind people in scattered rural areas have benefited by the passing of the Blind Persons Act of 1920. The extreme isolation of these people and the difficulty of transport are two problems which have to be met by the home teacher. Miss Fripp offers some valuable recommendations, including that of out-of-doors lessons in suitable weather, the loan of a room for the meeting together of blind persons scattered over a large area, the provision of wireless sets, the exhibitions of handicraft, "outings," and the encouragement of correspondence and exchange of views. "The great thing," she says, "is to visualise the home-life and surroundings of each pupil, and then draft the work that is waiting for that one to do."

The information contained in the chapter on Insurance should be mastered thoroughly by all home teachers, who should have the matter at their fingers' ends. It contains particulars as to such matters as the liability to pay insurance when employed under a contract of service; when employed as an apprentice with money payment; when unemployed; information as to the employment of sighted guides and particulars as to the various benefits obtainable.

Miss Garraway gives some very practical advice as to how to teach. She recommends the planning out of lessons according to the individuality of each pupil, and advises every teacher to attend classes and observe other teachers' methods.

An ophthalmic surgeon contributes the chapter on the prevention of the causes of blindness, giving the various causes of blindness and their treatment, and laying stress on preventive work in schools, especially in the case of myopia. Adequate protection is urged in the case of factory workers. In brief, the most urgent problems to be faced are:—

1. The prevention and proper treatment of venereal disease.
2. The adequate training and supply of properly qualified midwives, and further education of medical men in diseases of the eye.
3. The clearing out of slum areas and spread of education amongst the poorer classes as to how to bring up their children.
4. The provision of suitable educational facilities for children with myopia and defective eyesight.
5. To teach people not to go to a shop to buy a pair of spectacles.

A very valuable addition to the handbook is a list of books of reference, pamphlets and reports, including books concerning the various home occupations contained in the examination syllabus. This list will be found of great use to readers who contemplate taking the examination and also to others engaged in work connected with the welfare of the blind.

*Handbook for Home Teachers. Issued by the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind, letterpress edition; price 3s. post free.

MY IMPRESSIONS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER TRAINING AS A MASSEUR

"The Ball no question makes of Ayes and Noes,
But right or left, as strikes the Player, goes."



WHENEVER I am in need of a quotation with which to illustrate some line of thought I always turn to Omar, the Tent-Maker, and, in his store of wisdom, rarely fail to find some passage applicable to the case in question.

I am a Masseur, a fully qualified Chartered Masseur. It was only comparatively recently that the idea of taking up such an estimable profession entered my head. In my childhood days I wanted to become a cowboy. At school, however, I was informed that actuarial work was to be my lot. If the war had not butted in, I should probably have been by now a respectable married man, surrounded by children, and a staunch pillar of the local Church. But it was not to be, for the war shot me into the Army, from which I did not emerge until I lost my sight in Mandalay in 1915. Up to the time when I sailed for England, I was taken in hand by a very sterling Padre at Rangoon. From him I gathered that there were three vocations open to me—the Law, the Church, and Massage. During the voyage home I could not quite make up my mind whether to be a Lord Chief Justice or Archbishop of Canterbury. Before I had been in England very long, however, my high ambitions were vetoed. I had an insufficiency of brains for the Law, and a superfluity of unorthodox theological theories for the Church. So it was decided that I should become a Masseur, and harass the lives of registered medical practitioners for the remainder of my days.



THE WRITER IN HIS CLINIC

The Massage Department of the National Institute for the Blind is under the efficient control of Mrs. Chaplin Hall, who has nursed it and watched it grow from its birth during the war to its present lusty adolescence. My interviews with Mrs. Hall were long and interesting, and eventually I received the welcome news that, subject to certain tests, I had been selected for the course commencing in June, 1926. Speaking of tests, these are the bugbear of a student's existence. However confident an air some of the students may assume, everyone quakes inwardly beforehand. However, usually all is well, for Mr. Percy Way, the Chief Instructor at the School and the *fons et origo* of these tests, is a man with a great reputation and a charming personality.

The two preliminary tests to which all Massage Students are subjected relate to their physical fitness to undergo the course, and to their ability to read and write Braille. Having passed these successfully I spent the period of waiting, prior to the commencement of the course, in the study of a book on Osteology. The bewildering complexity and incomprehensibility of this standard work filled me with misgivings, and it was with a feeling of trepidation that I arrived at the School on the first morning of the course. The courses of training at the Massage School commence in January and June of each year, and each course lasts for eighteen months. New

students are termed the Junior Students, those of six months' standing the Seniors, and those of a year's standing the Examination Students. As one of the junior class I came under the direct tutelage of Mr. Krohn, the Assistant Instructor, and on the first morning of the course he began to unfold for our benefit the mysteries of anatomy. During the afternoon we sat in the class-room while Mr. Way lectured to the more advanced students on the treatment of diseases. When I left the School that evening I could not help wondering why I had ever taken up Massage as a profession. It would surely have been easier to have become Archbishop of Canterbury!

"For in the market-place one dusk of day
I watched the Potter thumping his wet clay,
And, with its all-obliterated tongue,
It murmured 'Gently, Brother, gently, pray.'"

And now we come to the Practical. The students take it in turns to be operator and patient. The strain of this unaccustomed work was mitigated to a great extent by the interest which we took in it. Powder and perspiration were much in evidence, and the laboured breathing of the operator was punctuated by the groans of the patient. It was not long, however, before we began to realise that most of our energy and powder were being unnecessarily wasted, and gradually we acquired that easy and effortless succession of movements under which patients have been known to enjoy an afternoon's undisturbed slumber.

My six months as a junior student seemed to have placed me in a position in which I knew a little about a vast number of subjects, a veritable Jack-of-all-trades and master of none. On being raised to the rank of a Senior Student I felt no particular jubilation because our Job's comforters hinted darkly at the horrors ahead of us—Hospital, Medical Electricity, Swedish Remedial Exercises, and Tests *ad infinitum*.

I was first sent to the Out-Patients' Department of the Middlesex Hospital in December, 1926, and worked there three mornings a week on and off for a year. It was very interesting work and provided good experience, as the patients there are numerous and their complaints exceedingly varied.

As Senior Students we now found ourselves more directly under the personal supervision of Mr. Way. Previously we had been allowed to act the part of observers while he lectured to the more advanced students. At times, especially on hot summer afternoons, I had found it very difficult to keep my attention fixed on the subject under discussion, and had, not infrequently, I regret to say, found myself drifting off to a land where anatomists are not. You may imagine, therefore, how disconcerted I was when Mr. Way proceeded, gradually but very methodically, to find out exactly what we all knew. This inquiry was carried out in two ways:—

1. By a series of weekly test-papers, and
2. By verbal examination in class.

The latter form was the more dreaded by us all. Our errors of commission and omission were broadcast to all of those present in the class-room. A particularly virulent species of these oral tests was known as "Mental Gymnastics," which always occurred during the last hour on Friday afternoons, and the anticipation of which would completely spoil my tea.

All that I had heard about Swedish Remedial Exercises up to the time when I became a Senior Student was a selection of horribly complicated and incomprehensible words of command which had occasionally been wafted to my ears from the lips of some Examination Students as I sought repose on a plinth after lunch. Now Mr. Way began to initiate us into the purport of these seemingly meaningless orders. The phraseology and technique of Swedish Remedial Exercises is, I think, one of the most difficult subjects in the curriculum. It caused me more mental anxiety and worry than any other subject, and I do think the Swedes should be more careful in future!

The course in Medical Electricity, which occurs during the senior student stage, did not present many difficulties; it is interesting, novel, and requires no output of physical energy. The examination in Medical Electricity took place in July, 1927, and consisted of three parts—one written, one practical, and one *viva voce*, constituting one of the final examinations.

We were now no longer seniors, but had passed on to the final grade of Examination Students. The last few months flew by, and before we could realise it the examinations were upon us. Strange to say I felt less nervous at the final examination than at any of the tests held during the period of training. In order to prepare us for the ordeal, Mr. Way had, a few weeks previously, given us a super-

test on the lines of the Chartered Society's Examination, and so we were not unprepared for it. After the necessary period of waiting it was a happy moment when Mrs. Hall telephoned her congratulations.

I had spent some very happy times in the Training School and was sorry to leave. But I had much to do, for now all the knowledge acquired during those months of training was to be put into practice. In spite of Mrs. Hall's strenuous efforts, the fitting up of the clinic was a protracted affair ; Christmas was on us, and builders and decorators were not inclined to exert themselves. But the result, when it was completed, was well worth the waiting. It is an attractive clinic decorated in cream and blue, with French windows opening on to a garden. It will be very lovely during the summer.

A final word about my first patient. One evening in January last the telephone bell rang, and on picking up the receiver a lady's voice informed me that she would like me to give her treatment for her chilblains. I replied that I should be delighted to do so. She then asked me what my fees were, when I became slightly incoherent and almost said that it didn't matter. However, everything was fixed up satisfactorily, and I returned to my seat with a feeling that life was good. I racked my brains and even read up matter in medical textbooks as to the nature of chilblains, only to find, when my patient turned up, that she was suffering from callosities. In due course I received a little cheque, and, as I held it in my hand, I felt a wave of content surge over me because it marked for me the first sign-post on the road back to the land of independence.

OBITUARY

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. G. H. Roberts, whose ministerial offices, besides those of Minister of Labour, Food Controller, etc., included that of Chairman of the National Advisory Committee on the Blind. A further obituary notice will appear next month.

Miss Margaret Gibson, the Blind Principal of Laurel Court School, Peterborough, who taught Nurse Cavell, and was First Honorary Freeman of the City, has died, aged 91.

THE EARNINGS OF THE BLIND



IN connection with the series of articles by Mr. Ben Purse, which has been appearing in the Beacon, Mr. H. R. Latimer, Executive Secretary, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, writes as follows :—

In the issue of your estimable magazine of November, 1927, in a thoughtful article, entitled " The Year 1920 and After," Mr. Ben Purse, speaking of methods of providing more adequate remuneration for blind workers, says in part :—

" I am firmly convinced that the basis of calculation must necessarily be economic earnings, plus a disability allowance. Such a method provides the only sure foundation of accurate classification, so that all assistance given beyond economic earnings should be provided in the form of a disability grant made variable within certain percentage limits, expanding or contracting in proportion to increased or decreased earning power. Nothing quite like this method has so far been adopted, though there are some evidences of a feeble imitation."

If our understanding of the foregoing is correct, the following description of the so-called " Handicap System " in vogue in the several centres, or branch shops, of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, Inc., will be of interest to Mr. Purse and others seeking a solution of this difficult question. A preliminary statement or two will aid the reader in grasping the plan presented.

The problem of finding employment for persons whose only handicap is blindness offers little difficulty either to the blind people themselves or to the organisation sponsoring them. It is when the handicap of blindness carries with it one or more of the other handicaps to which mortals are heir, such as deafness, shiftlessness, lack of co-ordination, etc., that the problem becomes relatively difficult of solution. This group is numerically much greater than the first group, and comprises the rank and file of the blind workers in our subsidised shops and homes. This is, moreover, the group to which Mr. Purse has especial reference in the paragraph above quoted.

It was in the hope of solving the problem of a living wage for blind people of this second group that the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, Inc., in February, 1922, instituted, at the suggestion of the writer, the present system of wage augmentation, known as the " Handicap System." This system is now operative in every centre of the Association where it is applicable (five in all), and its introduction in each instance was followed by a marked improvement in the loyalty and efficiency of the workers.

1. The blind piece-worker is paid the same rate as is paid for the same work by the local trade union to the seeing worker; and the flat-rate paid the blind worker is estimated by comparison with that paid to local seeing workers for the same kind and quantity of work. Since the amount of work done by a blind person is far below that produced by the average seeing worker, either on piece or flat work, even the trade-union rate of wage does not suffice to insure him a living wage. We, therefore, resort to the following expedient to supplement his economic earnings.
2. A basic handicap, or as Mr. Purse would say, disability allowance, of nine dollars, based on a rate of twenty cents an hour for a forty-five hour week, is paid each beginner until his economic earnings become appreciable or until he demonstrates his inability for industrial work. In the latter case, he becomes eligible for such direct relief as is available for him, but, in the former, he is taken on the industrial payroll, and paid as follows :—
   (*a*) He receives his actual economic earnings at the union rate.
   (*b*) He receives a handicap, or disability allowance, of twenty cents per hour for every hour of actual work during the week, less a sum equal to three-fifths of his economic earnings. (*see* (*a*)

   Thus, a man who earns five dollars a week, provided he works the full forty-five hours, receives a total wage of eleven dollars, of which six dollars is handicap, or disability allowance, six dollars being the difference between the basic handicap allowed and the three-fifths of his economic earnings; that is, nine dollars less three dollars. In like manner, a man who earns ten dollars a week receives a total wage of thirteen dollars, of which three dollars is handicap, three dollars being the difference between the basic handicap allowed, nine dollars, and six dollars which is three-fifths of his earnings.
   (*c*) In practice, the basic handicap depends upon the actual number of hours of work; thus, a man working only forty hours is entitled to a basic handicap of eight instead of nine dollars, from which the sum equal to three-fifths of his earnings is substracted. In such a case, the man earning five dollars would receive a handicap of only five dollars, and the man earning ten dollars would receive only two dollars handicap. This, of course, assumes that his earnings are as great for the forty hours as for the forty-five hours, which may sometimes be true.
   (*d*) Stating the matter in a slightly different way, whatever the economic earnings are and whatever the basic handicap amounts to at twenty cents per hour of actual work, a man's wage is equal to his earnings plus a disability allowance equal to the basic handicap less three-fifths of his earnings.
3. As nine dollars is equal to three-fifths of fifteen dollars, it is evident that the system works itself out at the point where a man's economic earnings reach fifteen dollars, and that all workers earning fifteen dollars or more are above the handicap or disability allowance limit.
4. Sick pay, upon physician's certificate and at the discretion of the executive officer, is allowed each worker at his average wage not in excess of fifteen dollars per week, for the equivalent of three forty-five hour weeks, within the year, or for one hundred and thirty-five hours, and for ninety hours more, at the basic handicap rate of twenty cents per hour. The average wage, not in excess of fifteen dollars per week, is allowed for an annual two weeks' vacation, and for all general holidays, such as New Year's Day, Christmas Day, Armistice Day, etc.
5. The virtues of our handicap (or disability allowance) system, we believe, are somewhat as follows :—
   (*a*) It insures maintenance during the period of training.
   (*b*) The total wage paid each blind worker increases as his earning power grows

greater, and acts as an incentive to still greater effort.

(*c*) The fact that each increase in economic earnings is attended by a reduction in the actual amount of handicap allowed, though the total wage also grows, tends strongly to restore or maintain self-respect.

(*d*) The principle of using the union scale of wage both for piece and flat work may be questioned by some, but carries with it manifest advantage in presenting the cause of our blind worker to the general public.

(*e*) The provision for a measure of sick and holiday pay is too manifestly good to require more than the mention.

(*f*) The fact that the amount of handicap, or disability allowance, may be reduced or entirely cut off by the executive officer, prevents the idler who is satisfied with a smaller total wage, the greater part of which is handicap, from abusing the system ; at the same time that the worthy worker who is able, at his very best, to earn but a small amount, is given a chance, through a substantial disability allowance, to live in a measure of respectability.

(*g*) The underlying conditions of the system are elastic, and may, therefore, be adapted to almost any set of special circumstances ; that is to say, whether the week is forty-five or any other number of hours matters not, whether the rate of handicap per hour is twenty or any other number of cents, within reasonable limit, matters not, and whether the fraction of earnings used as the sum to graduate the exact amount of handicap is three-fifths, does not matter. These elements may vary to suit the system to the conditions of a particular country or city.

(*h*) The gross amount of disability allowance, sick pay, and holiday equals a moderate bonus, with the difference that the greater portion of the handicap money goes to the men of lower economic earning power, who are the men in greatest need. Because of this fact, the system comes more nearly to solving the problem before us than any other plan of which we have knowledge.

6. A cross section of one of our weekly payrolls, deleted of names, is here presented in further illustration of the practical operation of the system :—

Name	Earnings	Handicap	Sick	Total	Hours (actual worked).	Hours off*
—	$ 5.00	$6.00	—	$11.00	45	—
—	10.00	3.00	—	13.00	45	—
—	18.50	—	—	18.50	45	—
—	15.00	—	—	15.00	45	—
—	14.40	.36	—	14.76	45	—
—	8.64	3.82	—	12.46	45	—
—	8.05	.53	$5.42	14.00	29	16
—	11.84	.30	2.62	14.76	37	8
—	4.40	2.16	—	6.56	24	21

*Hours off because of sickness, holiday or voluntary absence.

In conclusion, if the foregoing should prove helpful to any one wrestling with this difficult problem, the writer will be many times repaid for his pains. Moreover, he will welcome suggestions for strengthening the plan herein presented, which he realises is not yet wholly ideal.

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ADDITIONS TO MASSAGE LIBRARY

	Vols.
Diseases of Children, Lectures on, by R. Hutchison, M.D., F.R.C.P.	7
Manual of Gymnastics, by J. G. Thulin	2
Chronic Rheumatic Diseases, by F. G. Thomson, M.A., M.D., and R. G. Gordon, M.D.	3
Artificial Light Treatment of Children, by Kathleen M. L. Gamgee, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P.	2

IN PREPARATION.

Ultra-Violet Radiation and Actinotherapy, by E. H. Russell, and W. K. Russell.

READING COMPETITION, 1928

THE Eighth Annual Reading Competition was held at the Library, on 12th May. Preliminary testings had resulted in eleven candidates being selected to read the difficult passages in the finals, when Professor Gilbert Murray, Mr. Robert Lynd, and Professor B. Macdonald had kindly consented to act as Judges. The readings were keenly enjoyed by the audience, and it was interesting to note that although the seven best readers had been handicapped out of the events by winning the contests in previous years, the standard of reading seemed higher than usual, and the interest very keen.

Professor Gilbert Murray, in announcing the names of the winners, told the audience that the Judges had had great difficulty in making their decisions. They had been particularly struck with the amazing grace and facility with which the difficult passages had been read, and congratulated all the candidates on their skill.

The "Blanesburgh" Silver Cup and the First Prize in Class "A" were awarded to the Rev. W. J. Carter from Nantwich, for his masterly rendering of an extract from Joseph Conrad's "Youth," and Kipling's "Way through the Wood." Miss Johns and Miss Last were awarded the Second and Third Prizes, and Miss Gothwaite and Mr. Lunn Consolation Prizes.

There were two competitors in Class "B": Mr. Staines and Mr. Lawton. They tied, and the prize was divided between them. A new feature was a reading from Moon type, for which four candidates entered. Miss Anscombe was awarded the prize, and gave a short exhibition reading in the afternoon. The Senior Juniors (12–16) read a really tricky passage from George Meredith's "Adventures of Harry Richmond," and a "Hunting Song," by Sir Walter Scott. Joan Hewlett (Royal Normal College) read both passages beautifully, and was closely followed by Alice Montague and Phyllis Frost (both from Elm Court School), whilst Consolation Prizes were awarded to Kathleen Cogar (Royal Normal College) and William Manning (Linden Lodge School). The Juniors (under 12) read charmingly an extract from "Winnie—the Pooh," and "Sometimes," by Rose Fyleman. Dorothy Glogowski (Elm Court School) won the First Prize, Rose Pilgrim and Frank Saunders (both from Brecknock Road School) won the Second and Third Prizes respectively, and Nettie Rinder (Berkshire Road School) and Gwen Rogers (Barlby Road School) the Consolation Prizes.

Lord Cushendun presented the prizes, and Lord Frederick Hamilton added a large box of chocolates for each of the ten successful Juniors.

Lord Cushendun, who had spoken a few congratulatory words to each prize winner, said that this was his first visit to the Library, and that he was sure the readings they had just heard must have made all those present realise what books could mean to those who were in such a peculiar sense dependent on them. He had been amazed at the fluency and expression of the candidates, and wished other readers would learn from them.

Mr. H. Danckwerts proposed votes of thanks to Lord Cushendun, to all the Judges, to Mr. W. H. Dixson—the founder of the Competition—to the donors of the flowers with which the Library was decorated, and to the Library Staff. These were seconded by Mr. H. G. Oke.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND, JULY, 1928

THE next Examination for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40 tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.19, will be held on Saturday 7th, and Monday 9th of July. Candidates must have reached the age of 16 on or before the date of the Examination, must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years, and be intending to remain so resident. Application should be made to the Principal on or before Saturday, 23rd of June, and the forms, properly filled in and completed, returned to the College on or before Saturday, 30th of June, or the candidate's name will not be placed on the list.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

Education Department.

WANTED.—A sighted Woman Teacher and Visitor for the Blind in the Selby, Goole and Thorne Areas of the County Council. Salary £156 per annum.

Applicants must not be under 25 or over 50 years of age, and preference will be given to those who have passed the Home Teachers' Examination of the College and Association of Teachers of the Blind.

The appointment will be subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health.

Forms of Application may be obtained on application to W. H. Brown, M.A., County Hall, Wakefield.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
LIST OF ADDITIONS
May, 1928.

FICTION.

	Vols.
Alington, C. A. Tommy's Uncle	3
Asquith, Herbert. Young Orlando	4
Bennett, Arnold. Woman Who Stole Everything	5
Birmingham, G. A. King Tommy	3
Black, L. Seconds Out of the Ring	3
Crawford, F. M. Adam Johnstone's Son	3
Crompton, Richmal. William—the Fourth	3
de Morgan, Wm. When Ghost Meets Ghost	18
Douglas, W. Money to Burn	4
Feuchtwanger, L. Jew Suss	8
Fletcher, J. S. Passenger to Folkestone	3
Galsworthy, J. Saint's Progress	5
Glasgow, E. Romantic Comedians	4
Gregorovitsh, D. Fishermen	5
Haggard, Sir H. R. Lysbeth	8
Haggard, Sir H. R. Witch's Head	7
Hallack, Cecily. Beardless Counsellors	4
*Hardy, Blanche. Sanctuary	3
Irwin, M. E. F. Still She Wished for Company	4
Jameson, Storm. Three Kingdoms	7
Livingstone, A. On the Right Wrists	4
Macdonald, G. Lilith	5
Mackenzie, Compton. Rogues and Vagabonds	5
Montgomery, L. M. Further Chronicles of Avonlea	4
Rickard, Mrs. Victor. Upstairs	4
Robins, Elizabeth. The Messenger	6
Sabatini, R. Anthony Wilding	5
Selected Russian Short Stories—Chosen and Translated by A. E. Chamot	6
Skrine, Mary. Stepson of the Soil	3
Snaith, J. C. Adventurous Lady	4
Tarkington, Booth. The Plutocrat	6
Wallace, Edgar. Kate plus Ten	3
Whitechurch, V. L. Canon's Dilemma and Other Stories	4
Wynne, May. Phil's Cousin	2

MISCELLANEOUS.

	Vols.
Anonymous. Life of Cornelia Connelly, 1809-79	4
*Baden-Powell, Sir R. Scouting for Boys	5
Bell, Canon C. C. Companionship of Jesus—Brief Reflections for the Forty Days of Lent	1
Bennett, Arnold. Things that have Interested Me (Third Series)	3
Birkenhead, Rt. Hon. Earl. Law, Life and Letters (E. W. Austin Memorial)	7
Brooks, C. E. P. Weather: An Introduction to Climatology	1
Benson, A. C. Silent Isle	5
Clayton, P. B. (Editor). Smoking Furnace and the Burning Lamp. Sermons concerning "Toc H"	2
Dark, Sidney. Story of the Renaissance	2
Dark, Sidney, and R. Grey. W. S. Gilbert: His Life and Letters	5
*Florian, A. R. (Selected and arranged by). French Unseens (Junior Course); French Unseens (Senior Course)	4
Gibson, C. R. Machines and How They Work	2
Girl Guide Prayers and Hymns, for use in Camp and Clubroom	1
Glover, T. R. Paul of Tarsus	5
Harrison, G. B. Shakespeare	2
Home, G. Roman Britain	1
Jinarajadasa, C. Mediator and Other Theosophical Essays	1
Lang, A. Essays of To-day and Yesterday	1
Logan, J. Normal Guide to Spelling and Dictation (E. W. Austin Memorial)	2
Mackenzie, K. D. Christ the King: A Study of the Incarnation	2
Maurois, A. Disraeli: A Picture of the Victorian Age. (E. W. Austin Memorial)	5
Milne, A. A. Now We are Six	1
Mirsky, Prince D. S. History of Russia	1
Paton, W. Jesus Christ and the World's Religions	2
Piggott, F. W. Parting of the Way	2
Priestley, J. B. English Novel	1
Quiller-Couch, Sir A. (Editor). Oxford Book of English Prose	15
Ramsay, E. M. Christian Science and Its Discoverer	2
Russell, B. On Education: Especially in Early Childhood	4
Russell, B. Problems of Philosophy (E. W. Austin Memorial)	3
*Scott, W. Tales of a Grandfather—Series 1-3	16
Soothill, W. E. History of China	2
Stryienski, C. National History of France—Part V—18th Century. (E. W. Austin Memorial)	6
Thomas, Anna B. and Others. St. Stephen's House, 1914-1920	3
Whyte, A. With Mercy and with Judgment. (Sermons)	3
Woodward, Kathleen. Queen Mary	4

GRADE III.

	Vols.
Atkinson, J. C. Forty Years in a Moorland Parish	5
Holland, W. E. S. Indian Outlook: A Study in the Way of Service	3

MOON.

	Vols.
Birmingham, G. A. Spanish Gold	6
Buchan, John. Midwinter	7
Crockett, S. R. Red Axe	8

*Books in Stereotyped Braille.

SOUTH BEDS. SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

WANTED by the South Beds. Society for the Welfare of the Blind, a sighted **Home Teacher and Visitor** (Woman). Preferably one holding Home Teachers' Certificate. For particulars, apply Secretary, Blind Welfare Centre, Williamson Street, Luton, Beds.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (TOWN AND COUNTY) ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.

WANTED.—Home Teacher and Visitor. Salary £156 per annum to qualified Teacher. Apply, stating age, experience and qualifications and enclosing copies of three recent testimonials, to Mr. Horace E. Lacey, A.S.A.A., Secretary, 15 Guildhall Road, Northampton.

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the May Numbers)

Progress.—Tea in England—A Poet of Melody—Humour in Animals—Statesmen's Leisure—Matters of the Moment—Our Prize Competitions—Cross-Word Puzzle—Correspondence—Advertisements—Can Murder be Proscribed by Time?—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page—Fiction: Smith Sir, John Smith—The Lavender Crown (Poem). Supplements: Chess; Home Occupations—Sleeveless Cardigan; Baby's Brushed Blanket. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Literary Journal.—The Adequacy of Parliaments (Continued)—Childhood of a Genius—Book Reviews—Life in the Stars (Concluded)—Music Students' Library—The Romance of "Alice." Supplement: Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Rheumatoid Arthritis (Concluded)—The Use of Exercises (Concluded)—Official Notices—News in the Massage World—The Ultra-Violet Rays (to be concluded). Supplements: "Massage Journal" Inset: Circulatory Diseases and their Treatment by Diathermy; Proposed Directory; Official Notices; National Health Insurance Bill (to be concluded). Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Registration and the Music Teacher—Music Students' Library—Dramatic Readings at the National Institute—Musical Memory—Note to Tuners in the London Area—A Word in Favour of Jazz—Special Notice—Music for the Harmonium. Supplements: Braille Music Reviews—Announcements—Inset: Music Coupons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Optics—Momentum—The Swansea Dispute—Bills Before Parliament—News Items—Correspondence—Gardening Talks—The Poet's Corner—Legal Notes—Favourite Quotations—New Books and Pamphlets—Advertisements and General Notes. Supplements: Literary: The Story of Babylon; The Evolution of Lloyds'. Music: Mozart, "The Amazing Prodigy"; Coupons, "Why did you say?" Song-Waltz, "Charming Chloe." Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—A Street under the Sea—The Indian Scene and the Indian Problem—Romance of Nikko Cheyne (Book I, 10-12)—Nail-making by Hand—Your Six-Seconds' Yawn—Secrets of Good Health—A Lake which Grows Wheat as well as Fish—A Fish that Chews the Cud—Be Just to Yourself—Gustave Ador's Golden Deed—Thought for the Month.

School Magazine.—By the Editor—The Story of Aircraft (No. I) The First Airmen—The Boiling Cauldron of New Zealand—The Story of Troy and the Wooden Horse—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—New Appointment for Mr. E. Evans—Music Students' Library—A Little Biography—Hero of a Reed Hut—The Giant (Poem) Supplements: "Comrades." Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Moon Magazine.—The Shoes of Marie—The Flying Post—Raiders of the Sands—Animals the World is Losing—Lucky Gold—"Last Lines" (Emily Brontë)—Back to Thatched Roofs—Birds' Atlantic Flight—Our Soldier Duke—Devotional Periodical in Moon.

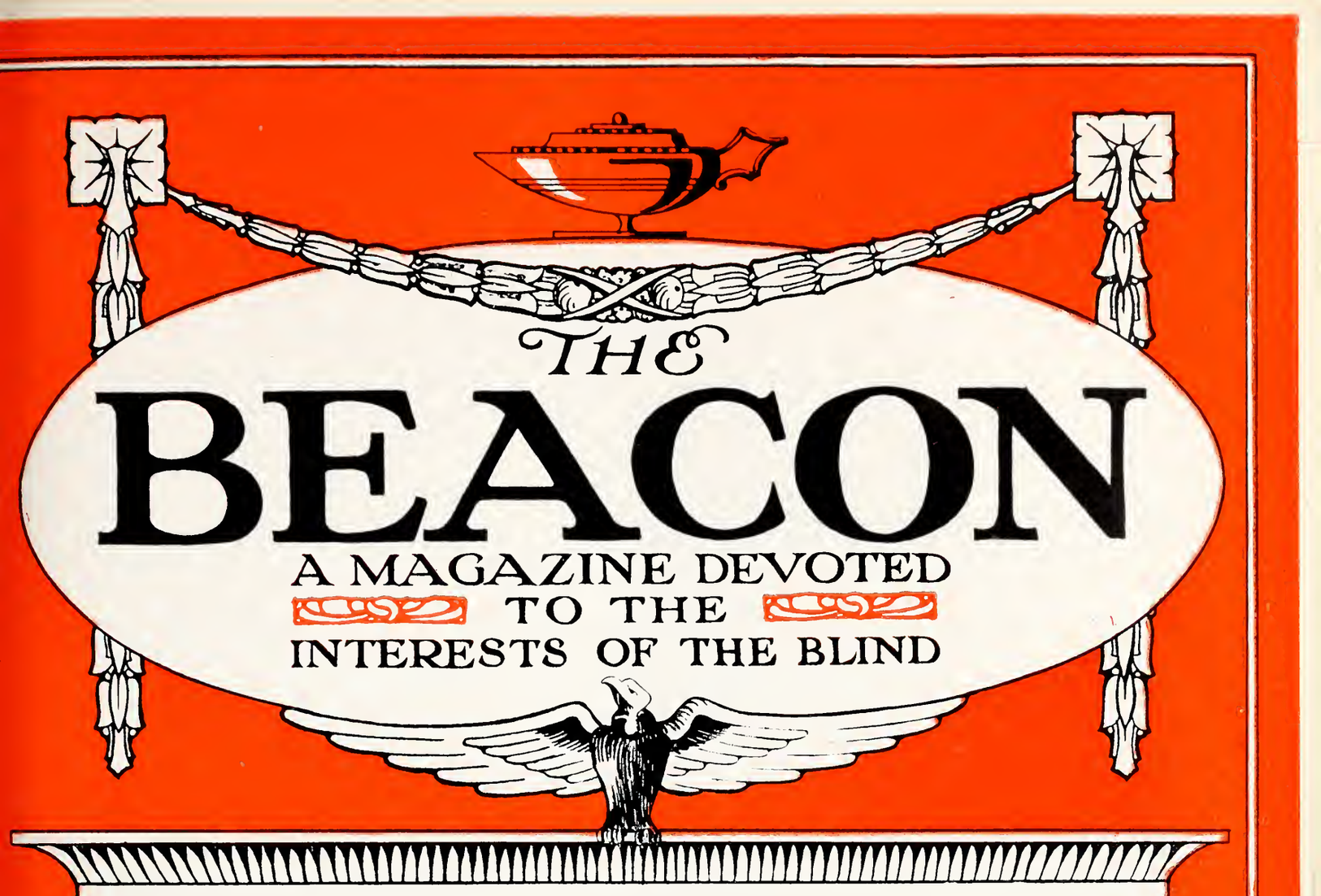
NEW PUBLICATIONS—Continued.

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The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

			s.	d.
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	MASSAGE—			
8272-8274	Lessons on Massage, by Margaret D. Palmer, Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 3 vols.	per vol.	9	0
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8155	"When We were Very Young," by A. A. Milne, Intermediate size, Interpointed, Pamphlet ..		2	6
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8241	Guides to Maps of Scotland, Grade 2, Intermediate size, Interlined		3	0
8242	Guides to Maps of Ireland, Grade 2, Intermediate size, Interlined		3	0

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

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	PIANO—		
8532	Suite in A, Op. 98, by Dvorak, pocket size	3	0
8533	Nine Favourite Tunes, by Fraser-Simson (arr. from " When we were very young "), pocket size	2	0
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8543	" Perhaps," Waltz, by F. Quinn, pocket size	2	0
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8548	" Charabanc Joe," D, Compass A' to E, by Wolseley Charles, pocket size	2	0
8549	" Sleighing," B flat, Compass B' to F, by L. Denza, pocket size	2	0
8550	" Moorish Lullaby," D flat, Compass D to E, natural, by Edward German, pocket size	2	0
8551	" The Ship of Rio," E flat, Compass B' to E, by Frederick Keel, pocket size	2	0
8552	" When I am laid in earth," Recit. and Air from " Dido and Aeneas," G minor, C sharp to G, by Purcell, pocket size	2	0
8553	" To be near my beloved " (Star Vicino), by Salvator Rosa, G, Compass D to E, pocket size	2	0
8554	" My darling was so fair," by W. Taubert, F minor, Compass C to F,	2	0
	THEORY—		
8555	Questions and Exercises upon the Rudiments of Music, by Stewart Macpherson	16	5

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5701-5702	The Book of Judges (Authorised Version), Grade 2, Intermediate size, Interpointed, 2 vols.	per vol.	3	3

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The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XII.—NO. 139. JULY, 1928. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

RETIREMENT OF SIR ALEXANDER DIACK,

K.C.I.E., C.V.O., C.B.E.

SECRETARY-GENERAL, NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND



IT was with very deep regret that we learned some time ago that, owing to ill-health, Sir Alexander Diack would be forced to relinquish his duties as Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind. It was in January, 1926, that he was appointed to that post, and our readers will remember that this appointment practically coincided with the initiation by the Institute of the big Unification of Collections Scheme; in fact, all negotiations forthwith opened between the National Institute and local agencies for the blind in all parts of the country were henceforth more or less in the hands of Sir Alexander Diack, and it is no exaggeration to say that the existence to-day of so many completed agreements between the Institute and local agencies is largely due to the unfailing tact, patience and ability of Sir Alexander Diack.

We always think that there can scarcely be a more difficult task than that of taking over the administrative control of a large organisation without hitch or complaint. If we were asked to name Sir Alexander's outstanding characteristic, it would be his modesty, and it is that absolute absence of self-glorification that undoubtedly stood him in good stead when taking over the reins at the Institute. In all that Sir Alexander did or said, it was apparent that he considered his primary duty was the acquisition of facts relative to his new sphere of action, and that his next duty was their assimilation in so complete a manner that he himself might become a part of the Institute; and it says much for his powers of acquisition and assimilation that, as each month has gone by, so has Sir Alexander become more identified with the work of the Institute as a whole. As a good administrator he knew that it would be impossible for him to attain at once first-hand information of the Institute's multifarious activities, but also, as a good administrator, he has never failed to make use of his staff to their full capacity, leaving them to carry out details where he has supervised the whole. Speaking personally, we ourselves have never failed to obtain a sympathetic hearing from Sir Alexander on the most various and remote subjects, whether they were in connection with the Institute's work or entirely personal matters, and we have always received from him helpful advice. His criticisms were never destructive but always constructive, and his quiet, dry humour often put controversial points, when fervent minds felt like breathing fire, into their proper little places of quite minor importance.

As Sir Alexander's most interesting and varied career prior to his appointment as Secretary-General to the Institute may not be generally known to our readers, we feel sure that a few details will be appreciated here. Sir Alexander was born on 13th February, 1862, was educated at Aberdeen University and at King's College, Cambridge, and was

one of the youngest, if not the youngest man, in 1881, to enter the Indian Civil Service at the age of 19. He served throughout in the Punjab, and held at different times almost every office in the administration, including those of Revenue and Financial Secretary, Chief Secretary to the Government, Settlement Commissioner, Financial Commissioner, Vice-President of the Legislative Council and Additional Member of the Imperial Legislative Council. As Financial Commissioner, Sir Alexander was for many years at the head of the Land Revenue Department, and had much to say in the shaping of the policy of the Punjab Government in the great scheme of irrigation and colonisation of waste lands, and in the supervision of the revenue settlements, fixing the respective rights and liabilities of the Government and the landowners. His work throughout was marked by a wonderfully intimate knowledge of the rural population amongst whom his work chiefly lay, and by a warm sympathy with their interests, which are apt now and then to be overlooked, as the urban people (one-tenth of the whole, embracing the professional and monied classes) are more vocal and in a better position to influence the Press and the platform. Sir Alexander had control of the most important branches of the administration, and although, as we have mentioned, of a modest, retiring disposition, he had the complete confidence of his colleagues and of all—British and Indian—who served under him. Few men have done more solid and extensive work. While in India he was a keen rider, and enjoyed all opportunities for an open-air life. His service as a settlement officer carried him from the Himalayan heights of the beautiful Kulu Valley bordering on Tibet—one of the loveliest spots on earth—to the sun-baked plains and parched hills of the Baluch tribes in Dera Ghazi Khan, and he was equally at home with the simple Hindu Kulu hillmen and the wild Muslem Baluch tribesmen. His accounts of both in the Gazetteers of Kulu and Dera Ghazi Khan are classics. Sir Alexander left the Indian Civil Service after 35 years' service, and for his splendid work in India received the K.C.I.E. and the C.V.O. From 1917 to 1922 he served in the Ministry of Munitions and in the Ministry of Pensions, and for his service in the latter received the C.B.E.

These few details give a glimpse of a very varied career of which the outstanding quality is a solid breadth of achievement, and we feel that Sir Alexander has added yet another to his many laurels by the work he has so conscientiously done in the world of the blind. He has had a thankless task. He has had to hold the helm at a period of transition, and he has had to find out and examine innumerable cross-currents before finally planning out his chart and handing it over to his successors for their guidance. But he has done his work not only with skill, but with high courage. For during at least half the time Sir Alexander has been with the Institute he has been a very sick man, yet nothing seemed to affect his steadfastness to duty and the patience he showed under the suffering that must have been his. The fine control of a painracked body by an indomitable will, and above all his unfailing and kindly courtesy towards others, will always endear his memory to those who had the good fortune to work intimately with him. We only voice their earnest wish when we hope that Sir Alexander will quickly recover his normal health and enjoy many years of rest and happiness after his strenuous career.

THE EDITOR.

SALFORD'S BLIND

WELFARE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

THE Report of the Salford Blind Persons' Welfare Committee for the year past, states that 372 sightless persons are registered in the city. The cases between five and sixteen years of age are all under suitable instruction. At the present time there are twenty Salford cases undergoing technical training at Henshaw's Institution for the Blind. Of the total of 59 employed blind, 35 are in occupation at this Institution, and a grant at the rate of £20 per annum for full-time attendance is paid by the Committee to the Institution in respect of each employee.

It is pointed out that the Blind Persons Act provides that a blind person on attaining the age of 50 years shall be entitled to receive such pension as he would be entitled to receive at 70 under the Old Age Pensions Act.

The Local Old Age Pensions Committee require that in all cases of persons applying for the pension on account of blindness the report of the Blind Welfare Committee's ophthalmic surgeon shall be submitted. Certificates of blindness have been furnished in 35 new pension cases during the year.

THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS IN CHILDREN

By H. ROWE JEREMY, F.R.C.S., *Lecturer and Ophthalmic Surgeon, London Hospital.*



EACH year during National Baby Week, the first week in July, the public is called upon to consider the various problems affecting the lives of our little children. One of the most tragic persons in our national life is the blind baby, a tragedy all the greater because it is one which, except in rare cases, could be prevented.

Right at birth can preventive treatment begin.

While the first bath is being given, the child's eyes should not be wet with the water of the bath, but should be cleaned with extreme care with cotton-wool dipped in pure water or boric acid lotion.

Then as soon as the child has been dried, and put on the dressing table to be wrapped up, a drop of a 2 per cent. solution of nitrate of silver is instilled into each eye.

Credé found that 10 per cent. of the children born in the Maternity Hospital at Leipzig suffered from ophthalmia neonatorum, and a large number of them became blind. After introducing the routine practice of dropping 2 per cent. solution of silver nitrate into the children's eyes at birth, the percentage of children suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum dropped to 0.1 per cent. These drops sometimes cause a little redness of the child's eyes which clears up in a couple of days; and some surgeons and nurses use protargol argyrol or collosal silver drops to avoid this congestion. But none of these are so efficacious, and the 2 per cent. silver nitrate drops should always be used where there is any suspicion of gonorrhœa in the mother.

The baby's eyes should afterwards be well bathed, with a lotion of boric acid, a teaspoon to half-a-pint of warm water, every night and morning.

If the eyes become inflamed two or three days after birth, the child should be at once isolated and treated by a surgeon. Many babies become blind for the want of early treatment. The eyelids should be painted daily with 2 per cent. silver nitrate solution, and the eyes frequently washed out with boric acid lotion or pro-flavine lotion (1-2,000). The pro-flavine lotion is stronger, and reduces the inflammation and discharge quicker than boric acid lotion. It has the disadvantage of staining the skin yellow, but the colour soon fades when the lotion is discontinued. The eyelids must never be allowed to stick together, otherwise the discharge accumulates behind them and is more apt to cause ulceration of the cornea.

If the cornea should ulcerate, the ulcers must be cauterised at once with pure carbolic acid to prevent them spreading, and atropine sulphate drops, 1 per cent., instilled three times a day to dilate the pupils.

By these methods blindness can often be prevented even when the inflammation is very severe and the cornea is ulcerated.

When only one eye is affected the greatest care should be taken to prevent the infection spreading to the other eye. One very good method is to cover the sound eye with a watch glass and fix it to the face with strapping. Every care should also be taken to destroy any dressings used for washing out the infected eyes, and to keep separate towels for the baby's use.

Nurses and midwives should always wear protective goggles when bathing the baby's eyes for fear of infecting their own eyes with the discharge.

When the inflammation has subsided, and the discharge has ceased, the cornea is frequently found to have opaque scars in it which interfere with vision.

Superficial scarring of the cornea may become less opaque in time and a little yellow oxide of mercury ointment, 1 per cent., smeared into the eyes at night will aid the absorption of the scar tissue.

In deeper ulceration of the cornea the scar tissue never clears, and the opacities remain throughout life.

Inflammation of the cornea, interstitial keratitis, is due to inherited syphilis. The cornea becomes opaque, and interferes with vision. At the same time inflammation of the middle coat of the eye, consisting of the iris, ciliary body, and the choroid, leads to exudation and adhesions, which frequently destroy the eye.

Injuries of the eyes are a frequent cause of blindness in one or both eyes. Burns and scalds of the face may involve the eyes, and

destroy the cornea very quickly. I saw in Hospital recently a pretty little girl of four years of age, suffering from scalds of the face. Returning home from play she ran into the kitchen, and tried to see what was cooking for her dinner. Unfortunately, she pulled a saucepan full of boiling soup over, and the soup splashed into both eyes causing total blindness.

Perforating wounds of the eye from knives or scissors are frequently followed by prolapse and inflammation of the iris, which may lead to sympathetic inflammation in the other eye. In sympathetic ophthalmia the vision in both eyes is often lost, unless proper treatment is undertaken early.

Every injury of the eye, however slight, should be seen by a surgeon as soon as possible to prevent serious complications ensuing. A slight scratch on the cornea can cause blindness, if neglected; and a piece of dust in the eye has been followed by ulceration of the cornea, with infection of the interior of the eye, and meningitis leading to the death of the child.

It is, unfortunately, a common thing in Hospital to see a child with a perforating wound of the eye three or four days old, and so inflamed that excision of the eye is the only remedy. Very often the eye could have been saved if the mother had taken the child to a doctor at the time of the accident.

In some cases blindness is due to congenital disease of the eyes, such as cataracts. Many congenital cataracts can be treated with success by operation; and the earlier the operation is performed the better the result.

Lamellar cataracts are particularly suitable for operation when the opacity of the lens is so dense that glasses do not improve the vision. The lens is needled to allow absorption of the cataract, and suitable glasses are afterwards worn.

Very short-sighted, or myopic, children may become blind from inflammation or detachment of the retina. This usually happens when the myopia is progressive, and the eyes become strained.

Increase in the amount of short-sight can be checked by preventing myopic children using their eyes for near work. Such children should be taught in a special school, where black-boards are used in place of books, and where the teaching is chiefly oral. When blind, or nearly blind, the child should be taught through the senses of hearing and feeling, and it is very important to begin the education early.

The National Institute for the Blind has founded Sunshine Homes to teach blind children from infancy; and the advantages of bringing blind babies into touch with them, so that they can be admitted early into a Home, cannot be over-estimated.

DIRECTORY OF AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND

AS we go to Press we have pleasure in announcing the publication of a Directory of Agencies for the Blind, price 1/6, published by the National Institute for the Blind, 224-228, Great Portland Street, London, W. 1. The book, which gives details of all agencies for the blind in Great Britain and Ireland, is issued by the National Institute and Gardner's Trust for the Blind as a result of collaboration between them and the Charity Organisation Society. It is designed to take the place of the book entitled "Information with regard to Institutions, Societies and Classes for the Blind in the United Kingdom," formerly published by Gardner's Trust for the Blind. A full review of this Directory will appear in our next issue.

A GRAMOPHONE RECORD.

A LETTER has been received from Messrs. Ryalls & Jones, Ltd., Publishers of the National Institute Edition of the works of British Blind Composers, informing the Institute that they have had a notification to the effect that Mr. H. F. Watling's "Minuet Antique," for organ, published in that edition, has been recorded (we understand by Mr. Reginald Goss Custard) by "His Master's Voice" Gramophone Co., and that it may now be purchased in its new form.

This piece has now the distinction of being published in inkprint, in Braille, and as a gramophone record, and we congratulate Mr. Watling, the well-known blind Professor at the Royal Normal College, on the popularity of his composition, which is already a favourite with organists and the public everywhere. It has been played all over the English-speaking world, and incidentally has done much to popularise the National Institute Edition and to draw attention to the works of the other blind composers included on the same list.

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

Miss BETTY HIRSCH

(of the "Silex" School for the Blind, Berlin)

I WAS born in Hamburg and became a German subject, though my family was Danish. My father's ancestors were distinguished scientists in Denmark, and my mother came from a well-known family in Copenhagen. I was their eighth and youngest child, was strong and healthy, and even at an early age showed much energy and a will of my own. At the age of six I was sent to a Girls' High School, which I left when 13 years old in consequence of an accident. While doing gymnastics I fell down on my face from a considerable height, and injured my eyes. After six years' treatment by the greatest oculists in Germany and Denmark, I lost my sight entirely.



Miss Betty Hirsch.

During these years much good literature was read to me, and I also began to study music—as a pastime, and without thinking of taking it up as a profession. As my eyesight diminished, a hitherto unknown feeling of independence developed; I hated to be pitied or helped too much.

As soon as I knew that I should remain blind for life, I decided to master all that a blind person could learn at that time. I went to Steglitz, near Berlin, to live in a Home for Blind Women, and attended school at the Royal Institution for the Blind. Here I went in for Braille, typewriting, handicrafts (such as chair-caning and basket-making), literature and particularly music.

After leaving Steglitz I went to Berlin, where I studied music for five years at a Conservatoire amongst seeing people. I had very little financial help, so that I had to struggle for my living by teaching blind and seeing people all kinds of subjects, such as music, languages, Braille and elocution. Besides this I had the ambition to keep step with my sighted fellow-students at the Conservatoire, and after some years I was the first of our class to arrange my own concerts successfully. For the next five years I sang at concerts in Germany and Denmark, and later on I sang several times in England. Although I obtained very good criticisms, I had still to struggle for my living and to give many lessons. In consequence I had a bad breakdown and was obliged to give up singing in public for ever. For a short time I lost courage, but after four months in a sanatorium I decided to go to England and study languages.

In London I was soon greatly interested in all the good work done in that country by and for blind persons.

Coming back to Germany I took up the teaching of languages and music as a profession, and in 1914 graduated as a teacher of languages.

In July, 1914, I again went to London to attend a holiday course for teachers and students at the University of London, not dreaming that war would interrupt these most interesting studies. During the first six weeks of the war I was obliged to remain in

England where I was treated most kindly. In August I worked with Professor Fournier D'Albe in Birmingham, at the optophone, and in the middle of September I returned, experiencing many difficulties on the way, via Holland to Germany.

Arriving happily in my country, I decided to devote the rest of my life to the cause of our blinded soldiers. It was not an easy task to find the first war-blinded, as they had been hidden as much as possible from the public. After I had searched for them in vain in Hamburg, I found the first five unhappy men in a hospital in Berlin. Here they had been put under the care of one of the greatest oculists and philanthropists, Geheimrat Professor Doktor Silex, of Berlin, who gladly consented when I asked permission to call on these men in hospital. I first went to see them on 22nd November, 1914. My life now began to be a busy one. My work among these five blinded men soon became known to the Ministry of War, and the number of blinded soldiers increased rapidly. In the daytime I taught in the hospital, and in the evening I gave private lessons in order to earn my living. I was proud to be able to help my country, and full of ideals with regard to the future of my pupils. I did not want them to share the fate of our civilian blind people who were mostly condemned to spend their lives in institutions or homes for the blind, always dependent, always doing the same tedious work and always isolated from the outside world. I was most fortunate in getting into touch with Professor Silex, who is one of the greatest oculists besides being a great philanthropist. He also was of my opinion that these men, who had been independent before the war, could not stand life in an institution, and that they should be enabled to work again amongst seeing people and to take up professions as similar as possible to their former ones. First we taught them Braille and typewriting, then we endeavoured to prepare each for his former business or for a profession that would most satisfy him. In this way we introduced many vocations for the blind which had never been tried before, and we were successful. After working three years at the hospital, I was obliged to give up my private lessons, as I was very greatly overworked, and the Ministry of War gave me a small salary for the duration of the war.

After the war these obligations were taken over by the Ministry of Labour, and I was for some years obliged to maintain the School entirely by private funds which I was obliged to raise by my own efforts. Had it not been for a noble American friend, who helped me throughout the years of inflation, I should have had to close my School. For nearly three years negotiations had been proceeding with the Berlin County Council to take over the School; meanwhile, it was maintained by the Municipal Council.

With the introduction of each new vocation, there arose for me a new struggle against tradition, and I had to prove to employers the possibility that the blind could do certain work by going into the factories and business offices, and first undertaking it myself. It was hard work, but the success was encouraging. I fully understood the prejudice of the employers, as blind persons had heretofore been known in this country only as chair-caners, basket-makers, brush-makers, and in some cases as musicians. At this time I came to teach the daughter of an officer who had been in charge of munition factories during the war. With his help I obtained permission to attempt work in these factories, with the result that nowadays many hundreds of blind men and women make their living by all kinds of factory work.

In England I had been told a great deal about blind farmers and poultry-farmers, and the idea came to me of finding similar work for my men. I made the acquaintance of a Count who kindly allowed us to use the grounds of one of his castles, and whose gardeners re-trained the men to do their former work. Many of these men then obtained some financial assistance together with a few acres of land which they tilled themselves. We also introduced other vocations which had previously not been followed in Germany to any extent. These included massage, telephone-operating, cigarette-making, etc. The men who had had a higher education were prepared for the University by the teaching of Braille, typewriting and languages. Many took up office work such as document-mending and, chiefly, typewriting and shorthand. For this purpose I invented a commercial shorthand in Braille, and had a Braille writer built similar to the Stainsby-Wayne Braille shorthand machine. Until 1920 we ourselves undertook the placement of the blind men. Later our work was taken over by employment bureaux for the

seriously injured attached to the county councils in all German towns. After most of the blinded soldiers had been educated and trained, the civilian blind applied for admittance to my School to be trained as typists and shorthand writers. To-day about 600 war-blinded men have been trained in these vocations; 73 civilians have been trained as typists and 50 in handicrafts. Most of these blind people have obtained positions and are earning their own living according to my preconceived plans.

The experience which I obtained in England, America and Scandinavia has greatly helped me to accomplish this work amongst my blind compatriots. I have to thank my teachers and the foreign countries for enabling me to do this pioneer work in my country, but I owe the greatest debt of thanks to that broad-minded man who put his trust in me with regard to the needs of the blind, and to the men who provided me with the means to keep up such an institution as a private concern; for only by independence and freedom of action was I able to obtain these results. My conception of blindness is that it is no misery, but merely a handicap which can be overcome to a considerable degree by will-power on the part of the blind person, coupled with understanding on the part of his seeing companions. A blind person who has the gifts and the strength to work, and the opportunity to unfold his talents, has the same duty to struggle for life as has a seeing person. He should not only stand up for his rights, but should also do his duty. Towards others consideration and helpfulness, for himself independence and self-reliance—these words should be inscribed on the banner of the sightless. This, I think, Sir Arthur Pearson meant when he called his book "Victory Over Blindness." I myself have now been blind for over 35 years, and never for one minute did I feel unhappy on that account. I try to inculcate this spirit into all blind persons who ask for my advice and help. Most of them have conquered, and I hope that in time to come each sightless person will be able to say from his heart "Don't pity the blind!"

The Glasgow Corporation Tramways' Committee have agreed to grant free travelling facilities on the tramways to the ex-service men now being trained in the local workshop of the National Institution for Blinded Sailors and Soldiers.

THE BARCLAY WORKSHOPS

THE Annual Report of the Barclay Workshops again indicates steady progress. The extension of the premises at No. 19, Crawford Street, was opened last October by the President, H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll. It is reported that the new building, which consists of six storeys, is a great success, five out of the six floors being already in use. Sixty-two blind women are now being assisted, of whom 38 were trained at the Barclay Home at Brighton; in addition, there are 113 women in the Home, School and Workshop at Brighton.

Ever since the year 1910 a steady increase has taken place in the sales, which last year realised £8,328 as against £7,768 for the period 1926-27. During the past year the Workshops have received the sum of £707 from the Greater London Fund for the Blind.

It is interesting to hear that a contract of over £50 for table-cloths has been received for the new "Lloyd's"; also that all the lady members of one of the City banks are dressed in overalls made at the Workshops.

The Committee record with deep regret the death of the Hon. Mrs. Campion, Vice-President of the Barclay Institution and founder of the Barclay Home and School for Blind and Partially Blind Girls at Brighton in the year 1893, who was Chairman of the Home for 25 years.

THE BASKET-MAKING TRADE.

OUR attention has been called to a little publication entitled "The Basket and Cane Trades and Willow-Growers' Journal," which is devoted exclusively to the interests of the basket and allied trades. It should be mentioned that this is the first time the basket trade has published a journal of its own, and we understand that the venture is being well received.

The journal has for its primary object the greater efficiency and improved status of this trade, and will include permanent features such as "Editorial Notes," "Contracts and Tenders," "Current Prices," "Import and Export News," "Institutional Notes," specifications of cane furniture, baskets, etc., and many other matters, besides special articles of interest to the trade.

It is thought that later the journal may possibly be divided into two parts, one for willow work and the other for cane furniture and the like. The price is 6/- per annum.

COLLEGE AND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND

RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS

School Teachers' Examination, 1928.



THE twentieth examination for the school teachers' certificate was held on 22nd and 23rd May, 1928, at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W. 3.

The examiners were Mr. W. M. Stone (Chairman), Mr. A. R. Bannister, Mr. E. Evans, Miss J. Falconer (Secretary), Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Miss E. M. Jones and Dr. J. M. Ritchie.

Eleven candidates entered—ten women and one man. Four were re-entrants from last year. Eight were awarded the certificate. The Board of Examiners report as follows :—

Practical Braille.

5 Honours 3 Passes 1 Failure

The reading was rather slow and hesitating. More practice is needed. Only two candidates read with any degree of fluency. The dictation was much better, but punctuation was weak in several cases.

Theoretical Braille.

5 Honours 3 Passes 1 Failure

Candidates who gained honours knew the rules well. The answers of the remainder were disconnected and lacked arrangement.

Arithmetic.

4 Honours 5 Passes 2 Failures

Involved and lengthy working of simple examples showed an inadequate grasp of Arithmetic and the use of the Taylor frame.

Practice of Teaching.

4 Honours 3 Passes 0 Failures

Theory of Education.

1 Honours. 7 Passes.

Although all candidates passed in this subject, the answers were disappointing. There was scope in the paper for original treatment, but the matter (with one or two exceptions) was dull and stereotyped. Thoughtful reading of recent educational books is recommended.

Optional Subject.

Infant Handwork.

1 Honours. 2 Passes.

The candidate who gained Honours showed exceptional merit in the arrangement of the scheme, specimens of handwork and written paper.

Typewriting.

1 Honours. 1 Pass.

Hand Knitting.

2 Honours.

Chair Caning.

2 Passes.

Braille Music.

1 Pass.

The Arthur Pearson prize was awarded to Miss F. Cookson, of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind ; Miss V. Pyefinch, of the Royal Normal College, was *proxime accessit.* The following is a list of the successful candidates ; the number of the subjects in which honours were obtained is indicated after each name :—

Bland, Miss M. (4)	Gordon, Miss C. E. (4)
Bold, Mrs. F. M.	Preedy, Miss T. S. (2)
Cookson, Miss F. B. (5)	Pyefinch, Miss V. E. (4)
Dudley, Miss A. M. (3)	Yates, Miss L. (2)

Home Teachers' Examination, 1928.

The sixth examination for the Home Teachers' Certificate was held simultaneously at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W. 3., and the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Benwell Dene, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1st, 2nd and 3rd May, 1928.

The examiners were Mr. W. M. Stone, Mr. A. R. Bannister, Mr. R. G. Cowley (Secretary), Mr. E. Evans, Miss J. I. Falconer, Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Miss E. M. Jones, Dr. J. M. Ritchie, Mr. A. Siddall, Mr. S. E. Stevens and Mr. W. H. Tate. The following acted as co-opted examiners and invigilators — Mrs. Dalby, Miss Page, Miss Radford, Miss Bulbeck, Mr. Symes, Mr. Osborn, Mr. Macaulay and Mr. Gadsby.

One hundred and eighteen candidates presented themselves, and of these forty-one were re-entrants. Seventy-three certificates were awarded. Of the successful candidates eight were blind, twelve partially blind and fifty-two sighted.

The observations of the Board of Examiners are as follows :—

Braille.

33 Honours. 37 Passes. 26 Failures.

Some of the candidates possessed only a hazy idea of the alphabet and punctuation signs. Others were ignorant of the rules and of the apparatus—a few even writing from left to right. Some attempted to write in

Grade I. The standard reached this year was not high Very little intelligence was shown in the reading test which, with a few exceptions, was performed in a slow and laboured manner.

MOON.

27 Honours. 49 Passes. 13 Failures.

The standard reached was about the same as last year, but on the whole much better speed was attained.

PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE (PRACTICAL).

19 Honours. 63 Passes. 9 Failures.

The teaching was not altogether satisfactory. The majority of the candidates said what they would do, instead of teaching. In some cases too much ground was covered.

The chief faults were indefinite instructions and inadequate direction of the pupil's hand.

PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE (THEORETICAL).

7 Honours. 71 Passes. 19 Failures.

The questions set in the paper were answered more definitely and with shorter preamble. The standard of the work was higher than ever before, and a better grip of the subject was shown. In Case Work one or two specially keen candidates were noticed. Some teachers who cannot express themselves on paper showed to advantage in the Case Work.

CHAIR CANING.

19 Honours. 32 Passes 18 Failures.

The work was well done on the whole. The improvement noticed in recent years has been maintained, and points to careful tuition and practice. Candidates were quicker than formerly.

RUSH SEATING.

16 Honours. 18 Passes. 4 Failures.

Excellent work was submitted which indicated that candidates had been well prepared.

HAND KNITTING.

18 Honours. 14 Passes. 3 Failures.

The work was well done. Some of the specimens were excellent.

PULP CANE WORK.

10 Honours. 20 Passes. 7 Failures.

The subject was not well done on the whole. Those who failed had not practised sufficiently.

NETTING.

1 Honours. 3 Passes. 2 Failures.

STRAW BAG MAKING AND RAFFIA WORK.

8 Honours. 15 Passes. 5 Failures.

Very good work produced in both sections. Some of the raffia work was excellent.

STRING BAG MAKING AND RAFFIA WORK.

3 Honours. 8 Passes. 3 Failures.

RUG MAKING.

22 Honours. 51 Passes. 10 Failures.

Very commendable originality was shown by several candidates.

CIRCULAR MACHINE KNITTING.

1 Honours. 1 Pass. 0 Failures.

TYPEWRITING.

11 Honours. 6 Passes. 5 Failures.

BRAILLE MUSIC.

6 Honours. 3 Passes. 0 Failures.

The Arthur Pearson Prize was awarded to Miss H. Bradfield, of the Portsmouth Voluntary Association for the Blind ; Miss N. Ward, of the Sheffield Welfare of the Blind Department was *proxime accessit*.

The following is a list of the successful candidates ; the number of subjects in which honours were obtained is indicated after each name :—

Alcock, Miss E. B. (2)
Ash, Mr. E. (1)
Baker, Mrs. B. M. (1)
Barker, Miss W. M. (3)
Bradbury, Miss E. M. L. (4)
Bradfield, Miss H. (8)
Byrne, Miss G. L. (2)
Chapple, Mr. T.
Clay, Mrs. S. (1)
Coverley, Miss M. E. (1)
Cunningham, Miss M.A.L.(4)
Flello, Miss V. W. (3)
Folland, Mrs. G. M. (1)
Garnett, Miss E.
Gambling, Miss D. (4)
Gaster, Miss S. M. G. (1)
Goodwin, Miss V. (1)
Grahame, Miss M. O. (1)
Griffith, Miss M. E. (1)
Halton, Mrs. N. (1)
Hayman, Miss M. A. (2)
Heaton, Miss P. M. (3)
Housman, Miss H. (1)
Howlett, Miss J. (5)
Hutchinson, Mr. A. (4)
Huttley, Mr. F. C. (4)
James, Miss L. (6)
Kirby, Mr. A. (2)
Lacey, Miss A. M. (2)
Lea, Miss W. E. (2)
Lee, Miss A. D. (1)
Lewis, Mrs. A. J. (3)
Lovelock, Miss E. W. (4)
Magill, Mr. S. J. (3)
Manning, Mr. E. T.
Massey, Miss E. A. (1)
Milligan, Miss A. D. (5)
Morgan, Miss C. J. (1)
Morgan, Mrs. M. (1)
Mortimore Mr. T. J. (3)
Nesling, Mrs. E. J.
Nurse, Miss D. W. (3)
Parsons, Miss E. D. (4)
Pirouet, Mrs. M. J. (1)
Pover, Miss E. M. (1)
Pritchard, Mr. L. W. (3)
Prytherch, Miss L. (1)
Roberts, Miss E. T. (3)
Robinson, Miss E. M. (5)
Robinson, Miss F. (4)
Robyns-Owen, Miss A.(5)
Rudge, Miss H. (1)
Sandiford, Miss M. A. (2)
Shields, Miss S. E. (1)
Silvester, Miss C. W. (1)
Small, Mr. A. C. (1)
Smith, Miss D. M. (1)
Snowley, Mr. C. (1)
Smith, Miss N. (2)
Stewart, Miss J. K. (7)
Stuckey, Miss M. R. (2)
Sutton, Miss I. K. (6)
Scholey, Mr. F. M. (3)
Skidmore, Miss F. M. (2)
Thorpe, Miss E. (7)
Varndell, Mr. R. (6)
Walmsley, Miss D. M. (2)
Ward, Miss N. (7)
Waters, Mrs. E.
Wheeler, Miss M. W. (3)
Wright, Mr. R. D. (3)
Mills, Miss B. (4)
Womersley, Mrs. C. (2)

LAST month the League of Nations Child Welfare Committee considered the question of the welfare of blind children. It was proposed that the League should create an international organisation to deal with blind children, and it was pointed out that a central bureau for the collection and documentation of information concerning children threatened with blindness and the education of blind children was a real need.

YORKSHIRE WHIST CHAMPIONSHIP

THE final round of the Yorkshire Whist Championship, in aid of the National Institute for the Blind, was played in the Scala Ballroom, Leeds, on 23rd May. The chief prize is a silver trophy presented by the *Yorkshire Evening News*. The highest score was returned by Mr. Fred Watson, 63, Rudyard Road, Sheffield, and the trophy will, therefore, rest in the "Steel City" for another twelve months. In addition, Mr. Watson received £100.

The lady champion was Mrs. Annie Taylor, 25, Bridge Avenue, Otley, who also received £100.

The prize money was given by the Ovaltine Company.

The prize-winners were as follows :—

GENTLEMEN.

1. Fred Watson, 63, Rudyard Road, Sheffield —£100 and *Yorkshire Evening News* trophy.
2. Michael Murphy, 21, Wheathill Street, Rotherham—£50.
3. Arthur Land, 4, Bentley Terrace, Durham Street, Hull—£25.
4. James A. Mills, 20, Princes Avenue, Hull—£10.
5. Robert Colley, 38, Diamond Street, Saltburn—£5.

LADIES :

1. Mrs. Annie Taylor, 25, Bridge Avenue, Otley—£100.
2. Mrs. L. Jacques, Little Ouseburn, near York—£50.
3. Mrs. M. Lindford, 36, High Street, Brotton, Cleveland—£25.
4. Miss E. Simpson, 6, Londesborough Road Scarborough—£10.
5. Miss J. Charlton, Hemsley, near York—£5.



It was reported at a meeting of the Royal Blind Asylum and School that one of the recent students, William Neil, had been awarded by the University of Edinburgh the Bucher Travelling Scholarship in music of £120 per annum for three years. A recommendation by the Committee that an additional grant of £100 per annum from the Carnegie Endowment be given so long as he held the Scholarship was agreed to.

OBITUARY

WE regret to announce the death of Sir Alexander Muddiman, C.S.I., C.I.E., whose distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service was crowned as recently as five months ago by his appointment as Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

His was a kindly personality, and his ready sympathy caused him to become interested in the Chorley Wood College for Blind Girls. Each year he awarded two scholarships to students there, and, when he was home on leave, he never failed to visit the College and to entertain the girls with interesting descriptions of social life in India and of his work in that country.

His loss will be deeply felt by all who knew him, not least by the inmates of the College.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE Scottish Board of Health has reappointed the Scottish Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind for a further term of office to advise them on matters relating to the care and supervision of the blind, including any questions which may be specially referred to them by the Board. The Committee, which includes representatives from local authorities under the Blind Persons Act, education authorities, parish councils, and also from institutions and societies for the blind and organised blind workers, is as follows :—

Sir William Reid (Chairman).
Rev. Thomas Burns, C.B.E., D.D., F.R.S.E., (Vice-Chairman).
James Balfour, Esq.
Rev. James M. Brisby.
Alex. Butters, Esq.
Bailey P. J. Dollan.
Charles G. Lothian, Esq.
Thomas Main, Esq.
Dr. D. R. Macdonald.
George Mackay, Esq., L.D., F.R.C.S.E.
William W. Ness, Esq.
Adair Robb, Esq.
McKenzie S. Shaw, Esq., W.S.
Councillor Mrs. Jeanie Spalding.
W. M. Stone, Esq.
Ex-Bailey James Watson, O.B.E.

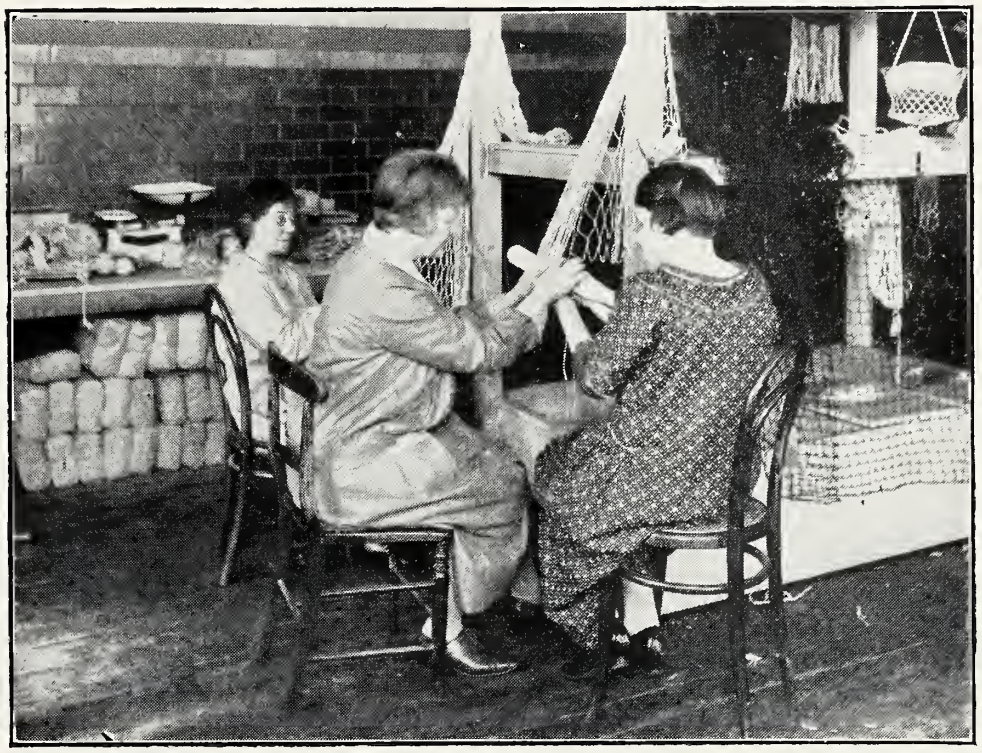
Mr. G. Hawley, of the Scottish Board of Health, will act as Secretary.

THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE BLIND



OUR second visit to the leading workshops for the blind was paid to the Incorporated Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, Tottenham Court Road, London. This Association has a deservedly good reputation for the excellence of its output of mattresses, brushes, baskets, and chair-caning, a recent addition to its industries being that of netting.

As in the case of most of the Institutions for the Blind in this country, it started from very small beginnings. In 1829, Elizabeth Gilbert, the daughter of Dr. Ashurst Turner, Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford, was taken ill with scarlet fever, and became blind at the age of three. Wisely, her parents determined that their blind daughter's education should be as similar to that of a sighted girl as possible. She soon learned to know the powers and the limitations of blind people, as well as their great need for work and independence. Assisted by her father and her friends, she devoted her time and means to helping those similarly handicapped.



In the Net-Making Room.

To begin with, seven blind men were employed in their own homes, material was supplied to them at cost price, the articles which they made were sold, and they received the full selling price less the bare cost of the rough material. A cellar was rented in Holborn, and here an attempt was made to give regular employment to blind workers. So far, although blind persons had been given work in the shape of various handicrafts, it had not yet been found possible to make such work remunerative. Thanks to Miss Gilbert's efforts the public soon came to realise the working capacity of the blind, and a market was found for their products. Gradually the Institution grew and prospered. A repository was taken at Cromer Street, Bloomsbury, and then a house and a shop were rented at 21 South Row, New Road, which is now known as Euston Road. More and more blind people applied for entrance to the workshop, and in the year 1856 the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind was duly and solemnly formed. In 1859, Her Majesty Queen Victoria became a patron of the Association.

Speaking at their annual meeting in May, 1863, the late Mr. Gladstone — at that time Chancellor of the Exchequer —said:—"Employment is a blessing for us all, but it is much more so for the blind. Employment to the blind is a condition of mental serenity, of comfort and resignation. Employment to the blind is also the condition of subsistence—that is, of honourable and independent subsistence. It is a great thing for an institution when we are enabled to say that its rules and practice are in harmony with political economy, for political economy is founded on truth. I believe that the rules of the Association are based on the laws which regulate the accumulation and distribution of the means of subsistence. In this Association we have the union of what the coldest prudence would dictate, and of what the most affectionate Christian heart would desire." Thanks to speakers such as Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Fawcett, the blind Postmaster-General—and others, and

to the increasing interest of the general public, the finances of the Association, which had been greatly depressed, soon revived. A West End shop was opened in Oxford Street in 1866, and a system of home visiting and instruction was introduced.

In the following year the Association moved into new premises in Berners Street, and in 1893 it took over its present premises in Tottenham Court Road. Previously a legacy of £10,000 was left to the Association by Mr. Gardner. In 1885 it sustained a great loss by the death of its foundress and Lady President, Miss Elizabeth Gilbert. On the death of H.M. Queen Victoria, their Majesties King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra became Patrons of the Association, and their present Majesties King George V and Queen Mary have shown their interest in the blind by doing likewise.

At present there are 212 blind people, including pensioners, attached to the Association. The workers are paid Trade Union piece-work rates, which are augmented from the Benevolent Fund by a weekly amount estimated as the difference between the output of sighted and blind workers. "The main idea of the Association," to quote the report for last year, "is still precisely the same as that conceived by Miss Gilbert, namely, work for the blind, in order to help them to earn their own living, to teach a trade to those who know none, and to find a market for the goods so manufactured." When the workers become old or infirm, and unable to continue their work, they become pensioners of the Association. Recently it was found that the premises at Tottenham Court Road were inadequate, and it was therefore decided to seek further accommodation. Factory premises were obtained in Fitzroy Place, Euston Road, where the basket-makers work.

There, as in the workshops at Tottenham Court Road, work is carried on under excellent conditions. In passing through the various departments the same air of assiduity and concentration was observable on all faces. In the chair-caning department the girls and women seemed intent on their jobs, and chairs in various stages of caning were to be seen. There were very beautiful specimens of all kinds of baskets, and garden furniture, such as chairs, lounges, tables, and stools of varying patterns were particularly noticeable. The brush and broom departments were a hive of industry. Wire-drawn brushes, bass brushes for stables, hair brushes, etc., were in course of construction, and the larger and stronger brooms made with the help of pitch were also in process of manufacture. Boot-repairing—which, as we have mentioned before, forms a most suitable handicraft for the blind—is carried on successfully.

People who stop outside the Association in Tottenham Court Road, and see the various attractive goods piled up in the windows, always pay particular attention to the mattresses displayed there. Those who are unaware of the capacities of the blind are astonished to hear that every stage of the process of mattress-making is undertaken entirely by blind workers. The cases are sewn by the blind, the filling is done by blind workers, and also the operation of the cleaning machines.

Finally, a word should be said about the netting department, which is a new venture, and appears to be justifying its existence. For the first time in the history of the blind, sightless girls are taking to this occupation, and a very suitable occupation for women it appears to be. Dainty objects are netted by these clever women's fingers, whilst the coarser work, such as tennis-court netting, hammock-making, etc., is manipulated by the larger fingers of the men. It is hoped, by judicious purchasing of materials and careful training, to make this venture commercially successful, and thereby to add a money-making occupation to those already practised by blind women. Thirteen men and women are being trained, and it is hoped that many more will join them.

Five blind men are now employed in the boot-repairing department, and during last year as many as 3,247 pairs of boots and shoes were repaired.

The training of the blind workers is undertaken by efficient teachers, and the relationship between teachers and workers is of the very best. In addition to the workshops, there is a department for the instruction of pupils in shorthand and typewriting, under a blind instructress. Seven blind typists are employed on the staff, and a number of typists trained by the Association have obtained posts elsewhere.

Those interested in the provision of satisfying labour for the blind should take the first opportunity of visiting these workshops. They will come away assured of the excellence of the goods and of the well-being of those who produced them.

E. G.

ANNUAL SISTERHOOD MEETING



THE excellent work done in the cause of the Greater London Fund for the Blind was demonstrated on the afternoon of June 13, when the Sixth Annual Sisterhood Social took place in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind. The visitors were ushered in to the strains of the organ played by Mr. Edward Watson, Secretary of the Music Department, National Institute for the Blind. Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., C.B.E., K.C.V.O., welcomed those present and expressed his warm appreciation of their efforts. Addresses were given by the Secretary of the Fund, Mr. H. C. Preece, and by the Organising Secretary, Mr. E. H. Williams, and a short report on Geranium Day was furnished by Miss Johnston, Chief Social Organiser of the Fund. An excellent concert was provided by blind artistes, including Miss Isabella Vass, L.R.A.M., Mr. Thomas Watson, and Mr. W. Turner, Mr. J. J. Delmage also gave a short recital-chat. Mr. Williams, in his address, spoke of the increasing number of blind men and women employed in workshops and elsewhere, and invited those present to come and see the work done for the blind, whilst Mr. Preece spoke in his usual breezy way, punctuating his remarks by a number of amusing anecdotes. He particularly stressed the normality of the blind, and the need for centralisation of effort.

It was fitting on this happy occasion that one should look back for a few moments to the beginnings of this popular feature of the Greater London Fund activities. The sixth milestone had been reached, as Miss Edwards happily expressed it, as she welcomed her "sisters" from Islington, Hendon, Highgate, Finchley, Hornsey, Harringay, Greenwich, Wimbledon, Balham, Chertsey, Mortlake, Southall, Camberwell, Eltham, Goodmayes, Lewisham, East Plumstead, Walthamstow, Bow, Dalston, Brockley, Wandsworth, Hackney, Grays, Norbury, West Norwood, Wanstead and Cricklewood, and spoke gratefully of other districts whose representatives had not been able to be present that afternoon.

She went on to say: "For the first year or two I came to your meetings—some North, some South, some East, some West—alone for the most part, but on one or two occasions under the sheltering wing of Mr. H. C. Preece, Secretary of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, and you welcomed me. Then later on I was joined by my colleagues, Mr. and Mrs. Delmage, and you welcomed them also. Later, and from time to time, other artistes have visited you, and you have opened your hearts to us all. What enthusiastic audiences you have gathered together at those concerts! What care you have taken to see that the best refreshments were provided, and what pleasant times we have had together in all sorts of weather. . . . Whether we have come in the spring, or the summer, or the autumn, or the winter, there has always been the same welcome and the friendly cup which cheers but does not inebriate. What wonderful community singing I have listened to; how inspiring it has been, and what an uplift it has given to one's soul! What excitement there has been when you have discussed your Christmas tea-party, your rummage sale or your summer outing—when the vote was taken as to whether you should go to Ramsgate, Margate or Southend, and whether you should be conveyed to your destination by train or char-a-banc—but not aeroplane, though no doubt that will come in the future! When I think of your manifold activities in connection with your individual sisterhood work, it is really wonderful that you have had the heart at leisure from itself not only to sympathise, but to give that practical help to the Greater London Fund for the Blind that is so greatly needed to bring happiness and brightness into the lives of those who live in the shadows. This year you have beaten the record. Your splendid efforts have realised for Geranium Day alone upwards of £500, and an additional £125 is the result of concerts and collecting boxes. I am sure you will in the future continue your good work and labour of love.

We thank you for the help that you have given,
We thank you for the way you all have striven
To stretch a helping hand along life's way
To those whose path lies shadowed day by day.'

Later in the afternoon Miss Johnston mentioned that over £7,000 had been realised on Geranium Day this year.

A joyous tea-party closed the proceedings, every table in the two restaurants of the Institute being crowded. Finally the feelings of all were voiced by Mrs. Hensman, of the Wandsworth Anchor Mission, who said that they could not leave without expressing their pleasure at the afternoon's entertainment and at the excellent tea which had been provided.

(An account of other activities of the Fund is held over for next month's issue).

A FILM OF THE BLIND AT WORK

FOR some time past the Placement Committee of the National Institute for the Blind have been endeavouring to ascertain in what kinds of factory work it would be possible to employ the blind. It came to their notice that blind people were being satisfactorily employed in various countries abroad, notably in Germany and America. On Friday, May 18, through the kind offices of Mrs. Rossendale, a film demonstrating the work performed by blind people at the Siemens-Schuckert Works, Berlin, was shown in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind. As we have mentioned before, the German Law provides that at least 2 per cent. of the workers employed in any factory must suffer from some handicap.

In a short address which she gave before the film was shown, Mrs. Rossendale said that 110 blind people were employed in the Siemens Works, and that the outlook of the war blind in Germany had been completely altered by the efforts made by Director Perls who has trained over 250 blind people for whom useful posts have been found.

Ever since 1915 efforts have been made to employ the blind on machine work. A deputation consisting of an eye specialist, a director of a home for the blind, a manufacturer, a factory inspector and a blind man visited several factories, and it was shown that there were over 100 possibilities of occupation in workshops. At first the chief difficulty lay in providing suitable protection against injury. The safety guards used are entirely efficient, and the Siemens Works have led the way which has been followed by others.

The pictures shown included a description of a blind man on his way to work, led by his dog-guide, who goes in with him to his work and sits at his feet all day. Amongst the various occupations described by the pictures were gauging, milling, riveting by means of a press, drilling small holes, punching, thread-cutting, lathe work, the winding of coils for electric motors, etc. Some interesting pictures were those of a one-handed operator attending a horizontal thread-cutting lathe, an upright drill and a vertical thread-cutting machine. Mrs. Rossendale assured her audience that owing to the efficiency of the safety guards no blind person had so far come to any harm at the Works. She spoke of the stimulating effect of the work, and of the fact that the blind men are employed on the same terms as the sighted workers. They felt, she said, that they were a part of the great community of workers taking their places in ordinary social life.

THE INNER VISION

IN connection with a recent exhibition of the National Institute film, "The Inner Vision," at Beaconsfield, a small prize was offered for the best essay sent in by little pupils at the High March Private School. The prize was awarded to Diana Harris, aged eight years, for the following effort:—

1. On the 18th of April I went to see a film called "The Iner Vison" and it was very good.
2. The Sun Shine Home is a very big Place and very nice for the Children to live in.
3. The blind children feel the letters to read.
4. The nurses nurse the babies in the sun shine.
5. One nurse let a baby smell a rose.
6. The babies were bathed in a tiny bath.
7. The blind men played chess.
8. The babies were fed with a spoon by the kind nurses.
9. The blind girls do exercises.
10. When play time comes the children have a ride on a rocking horse.
11. A lady stood up and spoke and said a Boy went blind and he passed an exam in Oxford and went to Queen's College.

DIANA HARRIS,
Netherwood, Ledborough Lane,
Beaconsfield.

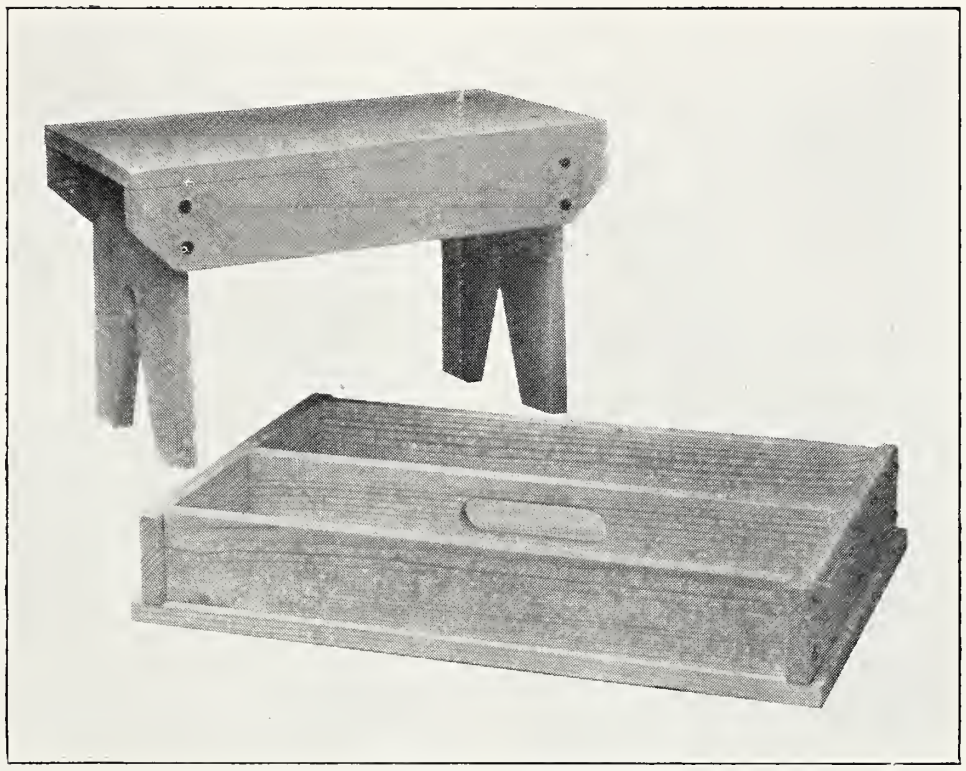
"Sympathy is the safeguard of the human soul against selfishness."—*Carlyle.*

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

WOODWORK—II



WE now have a 20 in. by 6 in. board quite true and smooth, and the next thing is to bore a hole near one end for hanging purposes. This is done with a brace and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. centre bit, and while on the subject of boring, it may be said that the full equipment will include a $\frac{1}{8}$ in. shell bit for nailing and screwing, and several sizes of twist and centre Bits. To mark position of present hole, find centre of end of board and place the stock of the try square along this end so that the blade is central and running lengthwise of the board. Now measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. from end along blade of try square. The quarter, half, and three-quarter inches are obtained by means of short pieces of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. square stripwood placed against end of rule as required and kept in the pocket when not in use. The mark for centre of hole is now made in the angle formed by the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. piece at end of rule and the blade of try square; and the board is held in the vice while the drilling is performed. It is now proposed to take off the two corners of this end, for which purpose marks are made 2 ins. from the corners on both sides and at end of board also—four marks in all. Two diagonal lines are then made with rule and marking knife, and the corners sawn off with the tenon saw. This saw—12 ins. or 14 ins. in length, with thin blade, fine teeth, and stout metal back—is used for fine sawing on the bench in conjunction with a bench hook, this having a stout baseboard about 12 ins. by 6 ins. with a cross piece on top at one end, and another cross piece underneath at the other. The bottom cross piece is hooked against edge of bench, and the work held firmly against upper cross piece while being sawn. The two sides can now be trued up on the shooting board if necessary, testing for accuracy with the bevel; this being a tool similar to the try square, but with a moveable blade which can be adjusted to any angle. The board is now given a final smoothing with glasspaper used over a block of wood or cork about 5 ins. by 3 ins. by 1 in.; and the linoleum, 17 ins. long and the same width as the board, glued on with one end flush with bottom of board.



Two Examples of Woodwork

A word may be said here about gluing. The writer recommends Croid liquid glue, as it gives little trouble, and is cleaner and more certain than ordinary glue, the makers claiming further that it is the strongest glue known. Nevertheless, most professional woodworkers use the cake glue for which a special double-container glue pot heated over a gas ring or other burner is necessary. The glue is applied freely with a brush, and the surfaces to be joined are brought together with as little delay as possible, any surplus glue being wiped off at once with a damp cloth. In the present case the completed knife board is cramped between two boards in the vice and left till glue is quite set.

A SOAP BOX.—The wood for this is also $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick, four pieces being required as follows: No. 1 (for the back) $5\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by 4 ins.; No. 2 (for the front) $5\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins., and two pieces for the sides, each 4 ins. by $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. It should be noted that measurements given

apply to the work when finished, and in all cases a little extra should be allowed for wastage in planing and glasspapering. The bottom of the box consists of a piece of perforated zinc (obtainable at most hardware stores) which rests in grooves one-sixteenth inch wide and one-eighth inch deep which run round back, sides, and front, one-quarter inch up from the bottom. An alternative design has $\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. draining bars nailed underneath with $\frac{1}{4}$ in. spaces between, the front of box being $\frac{1}{4}$ in. deeper so as to project below the sides to bring it level with the bars. Assuming that the perforated zinc is to be used, proceed as follows: Cut out and true up the four pieces, and then make the groove in each one. This is done with a cutting gauge, this being a tool similar to the marking gauge used to make lines parallel with side of board, but having a cutting edge instead of a marking point. This tool and its big brother, the Plough, are very useful to the blind worker, as by their aid the difficult business of sawing is rendered easy, or (in the case of thin boards which can be cut right through with cutting gauge or plough) eliminated altogether. The Plough is a kind of plane with a choice of cutters ranging from $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. which can be set to cut to a given depth; and there is an adjustable side fence which keeps the cutter at a fixed distance from edge of wood. For sawing boards which cannot be cut right through with either of the above tools, a groove is made at the required distance from edge on both sides of the board. The sawing can then be carried out with perfect confidence, the two grooves acting as guides to keep the cutting straight and vertical throughout the operation.

To return to the soap box, No. 1 piece will now have its upper part treated in a similar fashion to the knife board, *i.e.*, with a hole and sloped corners; and, after a final clean up with glasspaper, the two sides will be nailed to the back, using a carpenter's hammer and thin $\frac{3}{4}$ in. nails with fairly large heads, two at each side. The zinc bottom is now slipped into the grooves, and the article completed by nailing on the front piece. A more elaborate box has a back 8 ins. or 9 ins. in height to which a shelf is screwed, the screw holes being made with brace and shell bit, gimlet, or bradawl, and a screwdriver used to turn the screws home.

A. G. K.

(*To be concluded.*)

N.I.B. HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND

AT a staff meeting held in the Armitage Hall in January of last year, it was agreed to form a Branch of the Hospital Saturday Fund. About 180 members were enrolled, who undertook to subscribe not less than one penny per week. The total amount subscribed to the end of April, 1928, was £54 6s. 11d., an average of about £3 17s. 7d. per month, and the membership now stands at 183.

During this period seven contributors (or their dependents) have been admitted to various hospitals as in-patients, and successfully treated. Many more have received advice and been treated as out-patients, and others have received help in the form of appliances or grants-in-aid.

Members of the staff who have not yet become subscribers are invited to consult Heads of Departments who have greatly helped to facilitate the smooth working of the scheme, or full particulars may be obtained from the Supervisor of Branches who acts as Honorary Secretary of the Fund.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
	ENGLISH LITERATURE.	
Hazlitt, W.	English Poets	3
Hearn, Lafcadio.	Appreciations of Poetry	5
	HISTORY.	
Firth, C.	Oliver Cromwell	6
	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Levy, R.	Persian Literature	2
	MODERN LANGUAGES.	
Frazer, Mrs. J. G.	French Plays for Schools ..	2
Lôti, Pierre.	Mon Frère Yves	3
	PHILOSOPHY.	
Whitehead, A. N.	Science and the Modern World ..	3
Woodruff, D.	Plato's American Republic	1
	POETRY AND DRAMA.	
Beaumont and Fletcher.	Bonduca	1
	SCIENCE.	
Ranken, C.	Industrial Chemistry	2
	THEOLOGY AND RELIGION.	
Murray, Gilbert.	Five Stages of Greek Religion ..	3
Sheppard, Rev. R. H. L.	Impatience of a Parson ..	2
Shillito, Rev. E.	The Free Churches	1
Skrine, J. H.	The Survival of Jesus	3

IN the article "My Impressions Before, During and After Training as a Masseur," which appeared in last month's "BEACON," it was stated that the writer lost his sight in 1915. This should be read as "1925."

BRAILLE BOOKS—*Continued*

		s.	d.
5710-5711	The Second Book of Kings (Authorised Version), Grade 2, Intermediate size, Interpointed, 2 vols. .. .. per vol.	3	9
5694-5696	The Fourth Book of Moses called Numbers (Authorised Version), Grade 2, Intermediate size, Interpointed, 3 vols. .. .. per vol.	3	9
5704-5705	The First Book of Samuel (Authorised Version), Grade 2, Intermediate size, Interpointed, 2 vols. .. .. per vol.	4	0
5706-5707	The Second Book of Samuel (Authorised Version), Grade 2, Intermediate size, Interpointed, 2 vols. .. .. per vol.	3	9

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

		s.	d.
2727-2736	"The Street of Adventure," by Sir Philip Gibbs, 10 vols. (Limited Edition) .. .. per vol.	12	0

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
LIST OF ADDITIONS
June, 1928.

	Vols.
FICTION.	
Baines, C. E. Blue Poppy	4
Best Story Magazine, Stories from	2
Christie, Agatha. Man in the Brown Suit	4
" " Mysterious Affair at Styles	3
Cable, G. W. Flower of the Chapdelaines	3
Gerard, M. Fair Refugee	3
Grimshaw, Beatrice. Candles of Katara, and other Stories	4
Haggard, Sir H. Rider. Ivory Child	5
Mackenzie, Compton. Fairy Gold	8
Manzoni, A. Betrothed	7
*Sabatini, R. Justice of the Duke	3
"Sapper." Word of Honour, and other Stories	3
Smith, Pauline. Little Karoo (Short Stories)	2
*Turgenev, I. S. Virgin Soil	3
Wallace, Edgar. Gaunt Stranger	5
Wodehouse, P. G. Uneasy Money	3
JUVENILE FICTION.	
Le Feuvre, Amy. Christina and the Boys	3
Grade I.	
Letts, W. M. Waste Castle	3
MISCELLANEOUS.	
*Brown, O. F. Elements of Radio-communication (with diagram)	4
Campbell, R. J. Life of Christ	2
Cook, T. A. Anthology of Humorous Verse	5
Dana, R. H. Two Years before the Mast. (Travels on a trading vessel along the American Coast)	4
Dark, Sidney. St. Thomas of Canterbury	3
Gardiner, S. R. Students' History of England—Part III.—(1874-1919) (E. W. Austin Memorial)	1
Hollis, Gertrude. But Chiefly: A help to Easter Gladness	1
King, Richard. One Quiet Evening.	3
Klickmann, Flora. Mending your Nerves	2
Mordaunt, Elinor. Garden of Contentment	2
Sinnett, A. P. Super-Physical Science	4
Steegman, Mary G. Bianca Cappello (E. W. Austin Memorial)	5
Stuart, Dorothy. Horace Walpole (E. W. Austin Memorial)	4
Voltaire, F. M. A. de (translated W. Todhunter) History of Charles XII. (of Sweden)	4
Woods, E. S. Every-day Religion	3
ESPERANTO.	
Bertrana, P. Barbaraj Prozajoj	1
Strindberg, A. Insulo de Feliculoj	2
MOON.	
Gaskell, Mrs. Cranford	5

*Books in stereotyped Braille

Wanted, sighted woman teacher in the Selby, Goole, and Thorn areas. County of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Education Department, County Hall, Wakefield.

NEWPORT AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BLIND AID SOCIETY

Senior Organising Collector Required.—Commencing Salary £208 plus expenses and commission on nett annual increase secured. State age, experience and qualifications. 3 recent testimonials. Apply Secretary, 199 Chepstow Road, Newport, Mon.

Home Teacher, female, required, with experience in the work and who has obtained the Home Teachers' Certificate preferred. Salary, £3 per week. Apply, with two recent testimonials stating qualifications, etc., to Superintendent, Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (TOWN AND COUNTY) ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.

Organising Secretary required. Person appointed will be expected to carry out general secretarial work of the Association and to undertake to visit town and county districts in order that social efforts, such as Whist Drives and Flag Days, may be organised locally in support of voluntary funds. Salary £200 plus commission to be arranged on results of voluntary support. £50 Commission guaranteed the first year. Apply, stating age and experience and enclosing copies of recent testimonials to Horace E. Lacey, Secretary, 15, Guildhall Road, Northampton.

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the June Numbers)

Progress.—The Land of the White Elephant—Animals that feign death—Wool and Words—A Master of 179 Languages—Sweet Lavender—John Bunyan—Matters of the Moment. Reading competition.—Prize competitions; Solution of last month's cross-word puzzle—Advertisements — The Belfry — The Credit of an Englishman—Nuggets — The Question Box — French page—Fiction: The Fine Day—Supplements: Chess—Home Occupations (Stool Seating with Seagrass)—Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Literary Magazine.—William Harvey—The Craft of Controversy—Einstein on Newton—The Women of Japan—The Mystery of Glozel—Our Bread in History—A Book for your Holiday—Book Review—Dante Gabriel Rossetti—National Library for the Blind—Reading Competition, 1928—East of Mansion House. Supplement—Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—The Story of Aircraft No. 2: The Coming of the Airship—The Way of the Ear with a Sound—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—Millions of Frogs—Hunting Flowers with a gun—' Ware Icebergs—A dog loses its master and finds many friends—Parrots at School. Supplements; Comrades. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Some early Recollections—The Reproducing Piano—Musical Successes—Advertisements—Parry's "Shulbrede" Tunes—Tuners' Column—The Tuner's Lot (poem). Supplements: Special Notice. Music Reviews—Announcements—Inset: Music Coupons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—The Ultra-Violet Rays (concluded)—The Treatment of Fractures—The Practical Use and Working of Medical Electrical Apparatus, No. 1.—News in the Massage World—Bath Conference on Rheumatic Diseases. Supplements: "Massage Journal" Inset—National Health Insurance Bill (concluded). The Treatment of Fractures—Annual General Meeting. Official Notices: Bath Conference (continued from Journal). Announcements. Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—Twenty Million Africans—Radio Times—A.1 Building for Lloyd's—The Swans of Niagara Falls—The Wolf at the Gate—The Romance of Nikko Cheyne — National Library for the Blind—Be just Yourself—Thought for the Month—Hunting Giant Lizards—Reading Competition, 1928.

The Light Bringer.—From the Braille Room—Verses for Chain of Union—New Books in Library—New Pamphlets—"Awakening," by Maud Stoward—Thought Power (Chap. 9), by Annie Besant—The Kingdom of Happiness (Chap. 5 and 6), by J. Krishnamurti—The Theosophical World University, by J. Emile Marcault (concluded)—Bulwer Lytton as Occultist, by C. Nelson Stewart, M.A. (to be continued)—When Friends meet, by one of them—Karma and Healing, by Jacob Bonggren—The Point and the Circle, by C. Jinarajadasa.

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland.)—Editorial Notes—Crossword Puzzle—The Element Helium—Lord Grey of Falloden—Bills before Parliament—News Items—Gardening Talks—The Poet's Corner—Legal Notes—Favourite Quotations—Correspondence—Advertisements and General Notices—Little Biographies. Supplements: Literary: The Story of Babylon (concluded)—Mystery Disease. Music: The Story of Rule, Britannia—The Welsh Eisteddfod Coupons. "Daffodils" (Piano). "The Pride of Tipperary" (Song). Eighth Annual Agenda for N.U.P. and I. Blind. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Moon Magazine.—The Text, by Ellis Lee—The Amazing Success of Joshua Cornbin—A Hundred Years of Rubber.—Underground Farm—The Woad-Makers—Knights of the Garter—Reading Competition—The Lutheran Herald for the Blind.

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Résumé of Programmes Broadcast from all Stations of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1928

AUGUST

Vol. XII No. 140

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.
The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
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The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

			s.	d.
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2484-2485	"Pippa Passes," by Robert Browning. 2 vols.	per vol.	7	0

Continued on page 3 of Cover

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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NEW SOURCES OF WORK FOR THE BLIND

Exploration by Appointments Board of the National Institute.



IN these pages, perhaps the word we most use is "progress." We admit we are fond of the word; but apart from personal feelings, in talking or writing of the blind to-day, it is impossible to dispense with the noun "progress" or the adjective "progressive." For progress along all lines of action in the blind world is being forced, year after year, by people whose ideas are not bounded by past accomplishments.

These people, these active sympathisers, are inspired by a profound belief that the capabilities of the blind are almost as infinite in possibilities as the capabilities of the sighted. They do not regard blindness as a bar to mental or even physical development, and they consider that the first duty of a "guide" to the blind is the exertion of a power of vision which can conceive as an ideal possible of realisation the complete independence of the blind.

We do not suggest that the attainment of such an ideal is easy or imminent, but the ideal itself should be—and we believe that, to a large extent, it is—before all individuals or bodies working nowadays for the benefit of the blind. National bodies, especially, with their wide experience and influence, should, through all weathers, steer their way towards so bright a star.

A shining example of this progressive tendency is the exploration now being conducted by the National Institute for the Blind of new sources of work for the blind. We have already reported the establishment of an influential Appointments Board by the Institute, and we now give a brief account of the Board's last meeting. It will be seen from this record that the undertaking is regarded from a wide aspect, that the exploration is broadening in all directions, and that there is every chance that the Board's investigations will lead, in the near future, to most interesting developments of vital importance to the whole blind community.—THE EDITOR.

A General Meeting of the Appointments Board of the National Institute for the Blind was held at the Institute's Headquarters on Friday, May 18, under the Chairmanship of Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E. It will be remembered that, following a meeting of the Board last year, a Placement Committee was formed, which Committee enlisted the services of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology to collaborate with them in exploring new sources of work for the blind.

In order to simplify the work, it was found advisable to sub-divide it into three groups as follows :—

1. Suitable processes in factories employing sighted labour.
2. The development of new industries in, or in connection with, existing workshops for the blind, to be carried on under conditions of manufacture and sale similar to those at present in vogue.
3. The development of new industries on a sub-contracting basis, arrangements being made with some commercial firm for the manufacture, under contract, of some necessary article by processes carried on in workshops run mainly by blind labour.

Dr. P. M. Evans, Chairman of the Placement Committee, in dealing with the first group, said that at the root of the whole problem was the suitability of any given worker for the employment in question, and, in order that no mistakes should be made on this score, the National Institute of Industrial Psychology had agreed to test the suitability of candidates for available posts. With regard to the employers' point of view, he said that, rather than engage blind labour, they would, in some cases, prefer to discharge any moral responsibility they might feel by making a donation to one of the funds for the blind. The Committee's reply to this was that they hoped to be able to prove that the blind individual for whom they wished to find employment could be an asset to the firm in question. They hoped that, when a suitable vacancy occurred in the oragnisation, they could feel justified in asking that the blind should be given the preference. They intended shortly to publish a list giving full particulars of all suitable processes which could be undertaken by blind workers. With reference to the necessity for extra insurance and safeguards, Dr. Evans said that the Committee were, at the moment, engaged in procuring full particulars concerning the scheme of insurance which obtained in Germany, and that subsequently they hoped to formulate a working scheme for this country by which the employer would be relieved of any extra liability. Further, the transport of the blind worker need not concern the employer, but could be a matter of private arrangement. In cases which required a further period of training, the cost, if the employer so desired, would be defrayed by the National Institute for the Blind.

Dr. Evans said that few opportunities of developing new industries in existing workshops could be anticipated. The prospect of sub-contracting by commercial firms in blind workshops seemed more promising, although it might not be easy to find factories willing to do this, and the cost of such an undertaking might be considerable. It would, however, yield a wider choice of work without the anxieties of capital invested in raw material, or the disposal of finished stocks, but it would necessarily be confined to repetitive work of comparatively low grades of skill. If the considerable number of blind persons attempting to learn the skilled trades of weaving, basket-making, etc., who were not capable of attaining reasonable efficiency, could be employed profitably on repetitive work, their earnings would be proportionately greater, and the average output of the existing workshops would be raised and become correspondingly more profitable.

Mr. F. M. Earle, of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, speaking on the subject of future research, stressed the importance of systematic inquiry in building up a sure foundation for their work. The problem, he said, was complicated by numerous factors which fell under two main heads—(1) those connected with the provision of employment; (2) those connected with the suitability of the employment provided.

One of the first tasks of research was to compare and reconcile existing experience, and, if this could not be done effectively, to initiate and carry out fresh inquiries which would throw further light on the problems. Individual opinions, in themselves, were insufficient and contradictory. Problems associated with the provision of employment, such as whether it was provided at home, in special workshops, or in ordinary life, were closely

connected with that of the suitability of the work, and it was here, probably more than elsewhere, that systematic research was needed. The studies, he said, should proceed in two directions, the one industrial and economic, the other psychological. He thought that the possibilities of the further development of factory employment of single individuals and of teams of workers should be gone into carefully in comparison with (1) sub-contracting to do work in existing workshops; (2) introducing entirely new industries into existing workshops. The economic factors involved should be systematically studied, and in order to gain data it would probably be found advisable to place blind persons experimentally in factories on sub-contracts, and on new types of work.

At the bottom of the whole question was the psychological problem. It was obvious that its importance had not as yet been fully realised, as, so far, no exact information had been obtained concerning the influence of a partial degree of sight on efficiency, on earning power, and on quality of work. The problems of training blind persons successfully in new forms of employment would not be adequately solved unless due attention were paid to intelligence, abilities, training, experience, degree of vision, temperament and individual character. He suggested, therefore, that psychological research should be directed along two main lines—1. Comparative study of the achievements of blind persons in different directions, in order to determine the extent to which success was due to each of the factors mentioned. There were other factors requiring study, such as the age at which vision was lost, effects of former experience of a similar kind, intelligence, etc. These comparative studies might be sub-divided into three groups :—

(*a*) Those dealing with people of higher education, for whom occupations of a manual kind were not suitable.

(*b*) Those dealing with people capable of succeeding in trades requiring high degrees of manual skill.

(*c*) Those only capable of success in occupations requiring low degrees of skill.

In order to obtain adequate methods of comparison, it was necessary to devise systems of examination suitable for use with blind persons. The speaker recommended that, in the schools, a systematic inquiry should be undertaken with regard to the difference in intelligence and manual skill of children having varying degrees of visual experience and residual vision.

Arising therefrom came the second main line of research :—comparative study of the influence of specific training along definite lines. Mr. Earle said that, supposing fifty or a hundred young people of 16 were examined by specially devised tests just before they finished their school course and began their training in workshops, and their abilities carefully measured, a considerable amount of light would be thrown on present problems if, after they had learned their trade, records of progress were kept from week to week. Comparisons of those trained by different methods would be valuable. He was sure that the solution of these problems required the knowledge and skill of a trained observer. They were not problems which could be solved in a few weeks, but much systematic research could be accomplished in a few years.

Mr. Lovett (Ministry of Health) expressed his belief in the wisdom of employing scientific methods in connection with this research work. He believed that he was right in saying that so far it had been found that jobs which blind persons could perform efficiently in factories were the kind of jobs from which sighted persons would be promoted to something better as time went on. He also referred to the excellent work done by blind shorthand typists in large offices and firms in which a number of sighted typists were employed.

Dr. Eichholz emphasized the fact that they must keep pace with the research and placement work which was being carried on abroad.

Mr. Mowatt agreed with Mr. Lovett that the blind should work side by side with sighted employees. The latter should be engaged by workshops for the blind to perform that part of the work which the blind could not undertake. Wherever possible blind persons should be employed in ordinary factories and workshops.

Dr. Graham, Director of Education at Leeds, expressed his satisfaction at the research work undertaken by the National Institute for the Blind. He felt that if what had been suggested came to a successful issue, and the blind were employed among the sighted (1 to 3, or 2 to 4, or a few among a large number) many or most of the employable blind would be able to do work which would be really worth while.

According to a list circulated by the Secretary of the Appointments Board, 37 firms are employing blind labour as follows:—

Eleven typists, one telephonist, nine piano-tuners, one machine-knitter, one research chemist. Others are engaged in chocolate-wrapping, sweet-wrapping, soap-wrapping, basket-making, boot-repairing, cheroot-bunching, and blind workers are also employed by firms of album-manufacturers, toy manufacturers and upholsterers.

THOSE interested in the "Back to the Church" Movement should procure "The New Paganism and other Present-Day Perils and Problems," by the Rev. Alfred Thomas, M.A., F.R.S.L., St. Barnabas Vicarage, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The writer is President of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind in Newcastle and Gateshead, which last year celebrated its Diamond Jubilee.

DIRECTORY OF AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

AS announced in our last issue, the National Institute for the Blind and Gardner's Trust for the Blind have collaborated with the Charity Organisation Society in producing a Directory of Agencies for the Blind which is intended to take the place of Mr. H. J. Wilson's "Information with Regard to Institutions, Societies and Classes for the Blind in the United Kingdom," published by Gardner's Trust for the Blind.

The present Directory contains a more complete list of Blind Societies than the former, and it has been so arranged and indexed as to make it as helpful as possible to all those who require a book of reference of this kind. The introduction gives a brief but comprehensive account of the main provisions of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, also statistics as to the number of blind persons in the United Kingdom, together with some general information and advice concerning the blind, who are divided, roughly, into four classes:—(1) Infants; (2) From 5 to 21 years of age; (3) From 21 to 40 years of age; and (4) From 40 years of age upwards. A short paragraph is added on the subject of the defective blind. This foreword is a revised version of Mr. H. J. Wilson's original introduction to his hand-book. The revision was made with his consent, but the substance of his work has been preserved.

Part I. consists of:—

1. A List of Administrative Agencies for the Blind.
2. Pensions.
3. Homes for Men, Women and Children.
4. Maintenance, Education and Employment.
5. Education and Employment for Non-Residents.

In each case brief particulars are given of the work undertaken, together with information concerning the management and any affiliated societies. In the case of pensions, the conditions are enumerated. It is pointed out that some of the institutions mentioned in this sub-section, in addition to granting weekly or other pecuniary assistance, aim at the general improvement of the condition of the blind and their education and training, whilst some of the institutions in the sub-section "Maintenance, Education and Employment" grant pecuniary and other assistance. The names of such institutions, therefore, appear under both headings.

Part II. consists of an index of the agencies according to their geographical distribution, county by county, in alphabetical order, with page references to the description of their activities in Part I.

THE Minister of Health has appointed the Rt. Hon. Lord Blanesburgh, G.B.E., to be Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind in succession to the late Mr. G. H. Roberts. The Committee advises the Minister on matters relating to the care and supervision of the Blind, including any question that may be specially referred to them by the Minister.

A SILVER life-saving medal has been conferred in Hungary on a boy of eighteen, who saved a woman from drowning. The boy's name is Elias Kiss, and he is a war orphan. Having lost his eyesight at the age of fourteen he has, for the last three years, been an inmate of an Institute for the Blind in Budapest.

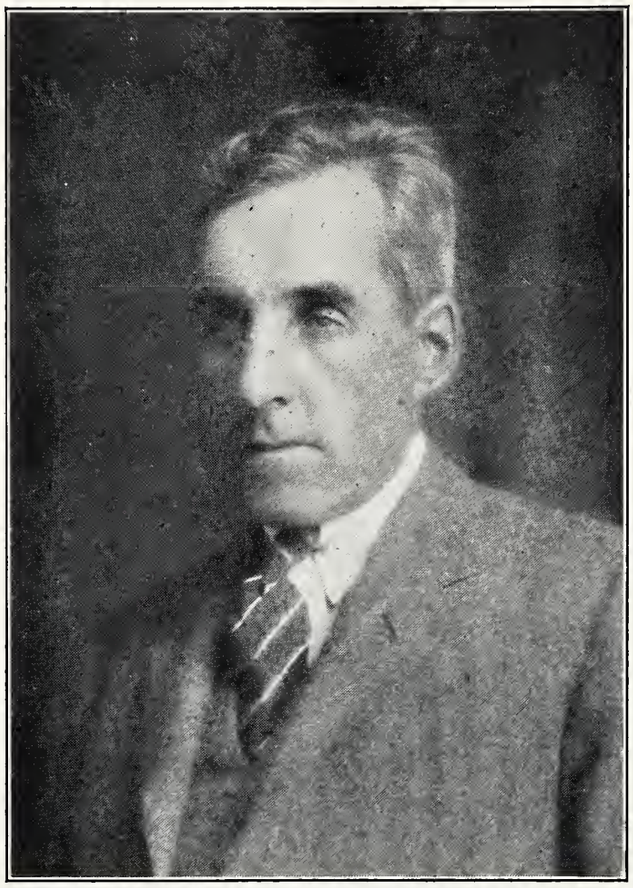
THE Memorial Stone of a Residential Home for Blind Women, which is being erected in the Newington district of Edinburgh by the Royal Blind Asylum and School, was laid on the 27th April, by Major Elliot, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for Scotland.

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

Mr. CHARLES E. ALLEN.

THOSE of our readers who have read some of Mr. Charles E. Allen's charming fantasies—novels and plays—will doubtless be glad to hear something about their writer, and some details concerning his work and how it came to be written. He himself modestly disclaims any pretence to be considered "interesting." He has never, he says, saved anyone from drowning, or won the Victoria Cross. Having been requested to provide some biographical data, he wrote: "I am not in a position to recount any adventures as they have always been of a vicarious nature."



Mr. Charles E. Allen.

Now, there are two kinds of adventure, those of the body and of the mind, and a perusal of Mr. Allen's work will not fail to convince the reader that he has lacked neither mental nor spiritual experience.

He was born in London in 1885, and was taken to New Zealand by his parents as an infant. His education in that country was interrupted by two journeys to Germany, as it was discovered that he was suffering from congenital eye trouble for which he was treated in the clinic of Dr. Pagenstecher, the famous oculist at Wiesbaden. He became an undergraduate at St. John's College, Cambridge. On returning to New Zealand he studied theology at a local seminary where he passed the first section of the Durham Licentiate in Theology, and was ordained Deacon. For some time he carried on parochial work with the aid of Braille, until he accepted an invitation to go to England with his father, Sir James Allen, who had been appointed High Commissioner for New Zealand. He spent some seven years in England, where he took to writing novels and plays, returning to New Zealand in November, 1926.

Mr. Allen is the author of five novels and a number of plays, a collection of which is to be published by Messrs. Basil Blackwell, of Oxford, in November of this year. In the beginning he wrote a number of sketches and comediettas suitable for performance in Church Schools, and these found their culmination in a children's operetta, "Flight-Commander Bobby," which developed from a modest schoolroom affair to a full-fledged opera performed in a local theatre. His first novel, "The Ship Beautiful," is a kind of literary pastiche. In it he worked upon the theme of his operetta, superadding the essentials of a very discursive and sentimental novel upon which he had been intermittently engaged for a number of years. "The Ship Beautiful" is described as "A tale within a tale." It is really the combined quintessence of a fantasy and a novel. "Brown Smock" was written during a sojourn in England. In this novel there is a lighter blending of fantasy with fiction than in "The Ship Beautiful." In both the phenomenon of blindness is a central point of interest. His third novel, "Tarry, Knight," was written prior to "Brown Smock," but did not find favour with the publishers, and went a weary round before finally coming to rest at the house of John Hamilton. "Tarry, Knight," is described as

" A study in stained glass." It is an attempt at a synthesis in the manner of " The Passing of the Third Floor Back." The reactions of the various types to a character of super-normal simplicity and purity are portrayed. In " John Blundell," which at the time of writing is repeating the experience of " Tarry, Knight," and going the rounds of the publishers, Mr. Allen discards fantasy altogether and tells a straightforward story, though he makes use of the scenery and properties, so to speak, employed in " Tarry, Knight." It is a story in which life in an English cathedral town and life in theatrical London is portrayed. His fifth novel, which he tells us he has just despatched to Messrs. John Hamilton, who have the option of the two novels following " Tarry, Knight," is a story, or perhaps it would be more correct to say a study, of New Zealand life. The protagonist is a child of humble parentage who wins his way by force of personality aided by good fortune, and with the help of the generous educational system in vogue in New Zealand attains a high place among his countrymen. He is eventually elected to a Rhodes Scholarship, and the story closes with a brief vista of his university life.

Turning to the plays, we find that fantasy again predominates. Of the four plays to be published by Messrs. Blackwell, " The Singing Heart " is a fantasy in two acts and a prologue. It was first produced at the Hall of Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, and performed by a little company of players called " The Foundlings " under the leadership of Miss Ellen O'Malley, whose name will be remembered in connection with many Shaw revivals and at least one original production, that of " Heartbreak House." " The Singing Heart " is written in blank verse, and its trend is allegorical. " The Four Foundlings," from which the little company took their name (this being the first original play produced by them), was first performed in the crypt of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, which, as all Londoners know, has been turned to such good account by the erstwhile beloved Vicar of that Church. " The Four Foundlings " was described by one critic as a kind of paraphrase of Shakespeare's seven ages of man, though Mr. Allen does not know whether this analogy is particularly solicitous. Representatives of the *Sunday Observer* and the *Spectator* were present at the first performance. As a result of the encouragement they offered, Miss O'Malley and her players decided to make a bid for permanence. With some trepidation they engaged the Century Theatre, Notting Hill, and there produced a triple bill, which included " The Four Foundlings." As a result of this venture the Foundlings found themselves in funds, and were able to produce several original plays, besides making incursions into old English comedy and even Shakespeare and scenes from some of Sir Gilbert Murray's Greek translations. They also produced another of Mr. Allen's fantasies entitled " Will and the Witch." Of the two other fantasies contained in the collection Messrs. Blackwell propose to publish in the autumn, " When Mr. Punch was Young " was produced at the Etlinger Theatre, Paddington Street, under the auspices of the Panton Arts Club. " Pierrette Cheats the Publisher," the fourth play to be included in this volume, has not yet been produced. " The Wist-ful Way," another fantasy, which does not find inclusion in the volume, was produced by Miss Maud Scott, at the Mary Ward Settlement, Tavistock Place, on the occasion of an Empire Day performance. Plays by Indian and Canadian authors were performed upon the same evening, Mr. Allen representing New Zealand.

We must not forget to say that " The Ship Beautiful " was awarded the silver medal in the competition for first published novels which is an item in the annual festival of arts and letters promoted by the Panton Arts Club. Mr. Allen was also awarded the bronze medal in the verse competition. The adjudicator in the first instance was Mr. Ernest Rhys, Editor of the *Everyman* Library, and in the second instance, Mr. John Drinkwater. Having incorporated the children's opera, " Flight-Commander Bobby," into " The Ship Beautiful," he has prepared a dramatised version under the heading of " The Ship Beautiful," and has secured the collaboration of Mr. J. Prentice, who set the original lyrics of " Flight-Commander Bobby " to music.

Mr. Allen is particularly successful when writing about children, of whom he has a very real understanding. His novels and plays are all the output of the years following on his loss of sight, and it is to be hoped that he will delight us with many more fantasies in the nature of " The Ship Beautiful."

After forty-four years' service in connection with the Hull and East Riding Institution for the Blind and the Hull Home for Blind Women, Dr. W. C. Rockliffe has now retired.

ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFICATED BLIND MASSEURS

STEADY progress is indicated in the Ninth Annual Report of this Association, the objects of which are to promote the welfare and protect and advance the interests of qualified blind masseurs and masseuses, and to assist and secure for them recognition and status. Sir Robert Jones, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., F.R.C.S., is the President, Mr. Henry Michael Whitfield, B.A., C.S.M.M.G., the Chairman, and Mr. Walter Malcolm Millard, C.S.M.M.G., the Vice-Chairman. The Executive Council is comprised of blind chartered masseurs and masseuses, and there are ninety-three Vice-Presidents, all eminent doctors and surgeons.

The Association is incorporated and registered under the Board of Trade, and is licensed annually by the London County Council as an employment agency for masseurs and masseuses. It is represented on the following bodies :—The Standing Committee for the Blind of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics, the Council of Allied Professions and the Executive Council of the Federation of Medical and Allied Services.

An outstanding feature of the Council's activities is that of advertising. Throughout the year regular advertisements are inserted in medical and lay journals in order to bring before the public, in particular the medical profession, the claims of the qualified blind masseurs and masseuses. The Association is the recognised agent of two leading insurance companies, and excellent arrangements have been made on behalf of the members for all forms of Life, Personal Accident, Sickness, All-In, Motor, etc., Policies, at very advantageous terms. A clause with reference to hands and fingers has been drawn up and included to meet the special needs of the practising blind masseurs and masseuses.

Readers are again reminded of the Massage Library of embossed books (founded by the National Institute for the Blind), which is at the disposal of all massage students and of all members of the Association. Leading works on massage and kindred subjects are available, and up-to-date books are selected and edited by Mr. P. Jenner Verrall, F.R.C.S., one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association, who also lectures to blind massage students on modern orthopædics.

The Council expresses its thanks to the National Institute and St. Dunstan's for their continued financial support, and makes special mention of the increased help given by the National Institute with regard to office accommodation.

The organizing secretary and treasurer is Mrs. Chaplin Hall, who leaves no stone unturned in her efforts to advance the interests of the members.

THE MOON SYSTEM OF EMBOSSED READING

Inkprint Edition (Catalogue No. 2500)

A USEFUL booklet under the above title has just been published in inkprint, price twopence per copy post free, for the benefit of sighted teachers and learners of the system. This instructional pamphlet explains, for the first time since the invention of Moon, the principles of setting the Moon system, and the rules for contractions, etc.

The embossed edition in Moon type (Catalogue No. 2375) has been revised, and is now an exact copy of the inkprint pamphlet, so that teacher and pupil can study the same together. The price of the latter is sixpence (British readers twopence).

HENRY STAINSBY MEMORIAL GIFT FUND FOR THE BLIND

ON the death of Mr. Henry Stainsby on 22nd December, 1925, to perpetuate his memory a fund was inaugurated called " The Henry Stainsby Memorial Gift Fund for the Blind." The object of the Fund is to assist blind pupils on the completion of their training at recognised schools, institutions or colleges for the blind, by presenting them with useful gifts in the form of Braille typewriters, watches or other apparatus or books, provided that all gifts be of such a nature as not to relieve any school, institution or agency for the blind or public authority of its proper obligations. Each gift will bear a suitable inscription.

The total amount raised was £1,437 6s. 5d. which, after deducting the sum of £36 for a mural tablet, will provide a sum of £63 annually for the provision of gifts. The Fund will be administered by the National Institute for the Blind, and the first distribution made in October next. Forms of application may be obtained from the Secretary-General of the Institute, 224-8, Great Portland Street, London, W. 1.

THE CARNEGIE TRUST

THE Annual Report of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust states that in the main the work of the year has proceeded upon the lines laid down for the quinquennium 1926-30, but several important new experiments have been assisted. The Library Policy in its three chief branches—Municipal, County, and Special—appears to commend itself widely among those concerned. The Central Library for Students continues to develop its usefulness to the local library services. The demands made upon the allocation for libraries in boys' and girls' clubs provide conclusive evidence that the educational facilities which the grants make possible are welcomed, and the year's reports indicate that they are well used. In the departments of Music and Drama the problems are stated to be more complex, and the results less easy to estimate.

Very careful attention has been given throughout the year to the reports received from the National Council of Social Service upon the development of the fifteen Rural County Councils, towards the financial expenditure of which the Trustees have contributed or allocated £46,000. The reports state that there is no doubt that many of these Councils are doing useful work.

By far the most important new allocation which the Trustees have made during the year—in point of size the largest single allocation since the Trust was formed—is that of £200,000 for the encouragement of the Playing Fields' Movement, inaugurated by the National Playing Fields' Association. The allocation is spread over four years.

In the field of adult education, a three-year grant has been made to the Workers' Educational Association, to finance an experimental scheme for the promotion of adult education in rural areas, in which, so far, the Association has made little progress.

The Trust has contributed £15,000 towards the extension of the premises of the National Library for the Blind. During the last completed year the stock has been increased by 3,305 manuscript Braille volumes, 6,887 stereotyped Braille volumes, 963 Moon volumes, and 1,584 pieces of music. New readers number 418 at the London Headquarters, and 203 at the Manchester Branch. Voluntary writers to the number of 137 are undergoing the necessary six months' training. The daily issues average 800 volumes, about 120 public libraries and over 100 Blind Societies and other Institutions being supplied with books. The increased accommodation involves a considerable increase in overhead costs, and, the report adds, it is to be remembered that the Institution is necessarily dependent upon voluntary subscriptions and grants from Local Authorities.

A BLIND CANADIAN MUSICIAN

WE learn with pleasure that Mr. Septimus Fraser, a well-known blind musician resident in Westmount, P.Q., Canada, has been elected a member of the Council of The Dominion College of Music (Incorporated), Montreal. This is an important examining body, and one which has been specially recognized for many years by a large number of the best Canadian Convents, etc. Mr. Fraser has also been appointed as one of a select committee of three to revise the pianoforte section of the examination syllabus. We understand that he was directly instrumental in introducing an excellent primary section to that syllabus a few years ago, and that now, also at his suggestion, a post-graduate section has been added. He is particularly proud of the fact that he has at length succeeded in getting a fair representation of British music on the syllabus, and the National Institute are pleased, on their part, to note that quite a number of their test pieces—up-to-date works—are available in Braille on the N.I.B. catalogue, in addition to many of the other selected works by standard composers; so that blind candidates for the examinations of this Canadian College are amply catered for.

Mr. Fraser is now one of the examiners of the College, and we congratulate him on the recognition he has received. We not only wish him all happiness and success in this sphere of work, but we are glad to think that here is another conspicuous example of a blind musician convincing his brother musicians overseas that the sightless are capable of taking rank with the sighted in the great world of Music.

A JAPANESE TABLE GARDEN

THE attractive Japanese garden seen on this page was made by a totally blind masseuse. Miss Stephen tells us that she has spent some very happy hours on this fascinating occupation, and other blind people may like to follow her example. The garden is easily and simply made without any great expense. It makes an excellent substitute for cut flowers when these are difficult to obtain.



A Japanese Garden.

First procure a large flower-saucer or bulb-pot, put some stones or little pieces of broken cinders at the bottom, and fill up with earth, the draining of which is effected by means of the stones underneath. After this has been done, pay a visit to a fancy shop or to a large florist's, and ask for some little figures. These usually consist of a little man and a fair charmer with a parasol, or else an old woman carrying a bundle of wood on her head, all of which are equally effective. You might also have a man in a boat, and a duck or other bird, and lastly, a bridge, and if you fancy it, a pagoda or temple. Procure some little rock plants and transplant these from the tiny pots in which they are sold, leaving a little of their own earth attached to the roots. Then arrange the figures according to your taste, set a little piece of looking-glass in the earth to represent water, and span it with a tiny bridge. The boat, with its occupant, will adhere to the looking-glass by means of glue, and will look as if it is actually on the water, or it can be drawn up at the edge as if about to be rowed across the stream. Sprinkle the entire garden with a little sand, and represent rocks by stones taken from a real garden. The rock plants should be placed near the edge of the garden together with some of the stones. It is necessary to water the garden every other day. A clothes-sprinkler, such as is used in many households on washing-day, is the very thing for the purpose. It is advisable that the blind "gardener" should consult a friend when choosing the figures, in order that they may blend harmoniously.

PLAY-GROUND FOR THE BLIND

THE Parks Committee of Glasgow Corporation, acting at the request of the local joint committee for the blind, have equipped a special recreation ground for the blind in Alexandra Park. A field has been set aside for blind workers, who will now be able to play such games as cricket, skittles, bowls, and take part in other suitable recreations.

Manchester has a similar playground.

WE have pleasure in announcing that all the blind candidates who entered for the recent examinations of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics, qualified successfully in both massage and exercises. The candidates were trained at the School of Massage, National Institute for the Blind.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

THE holiday month seems a far-cry from "Geranium Day," but final figures have been available only during the last few weeks. A sum of £7,207 19s. 3d. was collected, and £6,572 5s. 2d. handed over for distribution after expenses had been paid. That the money was collected at a cost of only 8·9 per cent. was most satisfactory, as this figure is very much below the average for flag days.

The decrease in the total received was a bitter disappointment, although not so great as appears at first sight—a drop of £400 being due to the fact that no Hertfordshire contributions are included this year. The sad fact is that about one thousand more workers had given their services, but five flag days in the previous week had wearied even a generous public and rendered snappy those who are usually only tiresomely deaf to the appeal to "Buy a geranium for the Blind." That such a large sum has been realised is entirely due to the organisers who kept on their course so doggedly, although well aware of the rocks ahead of them, and to the loving and enthusiastic persistence of the workers, who—though shivering—stood at their posts hour after hour, smiling their thanks for the smallest gift.

The principal West End Depôt was at Apsley House, presided over by Lady Towse, who greatly extended her area, and doubled her contribution—£202 1s. 7d. Among others who organised central areas were Lady Becker, assisted by Lady Sharp; Mrs. W. H. Alington; Mrs. Francis Goldsmith, with Col. A. R. Saunders; Mrs. Lilley, with Mrs. Stuart Sheppard; Mrs. Van Neck; Mrs. Johnson, for the Committee of the G.W.B., Tottenham Court Road; Mrs. West Russell, Lady O'Dwyer, Mrs. Kitchin, Mrs. Wagg, Mrs. Richard Steed, and the Committee of the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, St. Marylebone; Mrs. Hughes Buller and the Committee of the L.A.B., Victoria; Mrs. Kenyon, Paddington.

Further afield, the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, the Workshop for the Blind of Kent, Greenwich, and the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, did splendid work. Non-participating Blind Societies who generously assisted were the East Ham Welfare Association for the Blind, the Walthamstow Blind Aid Committee, and the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, through Mrs. Hamilton, who introduced the organiser for Dulwich.

The Boroughs of Finsbury, Bermondsey, Deptford, Lewisham, Shoreditch, Greenwich, Lambeth, Leyton and Fulham were organised from the Town Hall; and the Mayoresses of Kensington, Stepney, Southwark, and Richmond assisted personally the "Helpers of the Blind," or other district organisers. Mrs. Councillor Pitt was in charge of Ilford, and the Southall Council was among those districts for which the Council accepted responsibility of organisation.

Space will not permit mention of all those who helped, but the Committee are indeed ndebted to every one of them.

Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., Vice-President of the Fund, and Mr. Ormond A. Blyth, the Chairman of the Committee, greatly cheered many of the organisers by visiting them during the day.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND.

UP to the 9th July, 1928, 1,284 sets and 1,589 pairs of headphones have been distributed among the Blind, the local Associations acting as distributing centres. Readers should note that all wireless sets sent out by the National Institute for the Blind remain the property of the Institute. When sets are no longer required by their users they should be returned to the Institute.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND, SEPTEMBER, 1928.

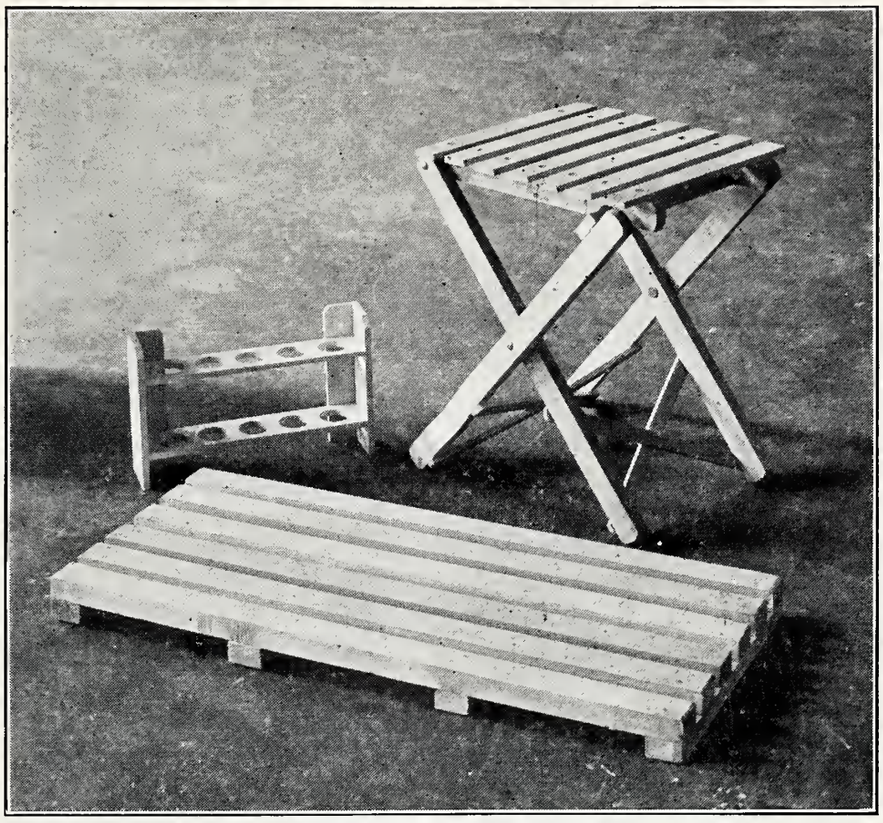
THE next Examination for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40 tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19, will be held on Tuesday the 11th and Wednesday the 12th of September. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the date of the examination, must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years and be intending to remain so resident. Application should be made to the Principal on or before Tuesday the 28th of August, and the forms, properly filled in and completed, returned to the College on or before Saturday the 1st of September, or the candidate's name will not be placed on the list.

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

WOODWORK—III



CHILD'S STOOL.—Still using half-inch material, prepare five pieces as follows: top, 12-in. by 7-in.; two legs, 7-in. by 6-in.; and two side rails, 12-in. by 2-in. From one end of the leg piece make a mark $3\frac{1}{2}$-in. up, and another mark 3-in. from the side, crossing the first. The point where the two lines cross forms the centre for a hole which is now bored with a 1-in. centre bit. Next make two marks at each end, $1\frac{1}{2}$-in. from sides, and, placing the rule diagonally from the left-hand mark at the one end to the right-hand mark at the other, and *vice versa*, mark two lines from the hole to the end of the leg, and saw out the V-shaped piece thus formed, treating the other leg in similar fashion. The side pieces are now dealt with. Make a mark 1-in. from one corner along the end, and another mark 1-in. from the same corner along the side, and saw off the corner from one mark to the other. Treat the corresponding corner at the other end in the same way, and when the other side piece has had its corners cut off also, the stool is ready to be assembled. At one end of the top piece make two screw holes $1\frac{1}{2}$-in. from the end and the same from the sides, and provide two holes in a similar position at the other end of the top piece also. The legs are now attached with $1\frac{1}{4}$-in. No. 8 flat-head screws, the V-cuts being at the bottom. Care should be taken to have the correct half-inch space at each side of each leg to accommodate the side rails which are now screwed on with cut corners downwards, two screws being used at each end.



Some Woodwork Models.

A KNIFE BOX.—Half-inch deal or other soft wood can again be used, six or seven pieces being now required, namely, the bottom, 15 in. by 10 in., either in one piece or made up by having two pieces side by side; two end pieces, 10 in. by 2 in.; two side pieces, $13\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 2 in.; and a piece for centre partition, $13\frac{3}{4}$ in. by 2 in. These being all trued up, the hand-hole in the centre partition can be cut. Find the centre of the piece, both lengthways and crossways, and bore a 1 in. hole there. Now drill two more holes close up on the left of this one, and two more on the right, and then straighten the sides of the opening with chisel, knife, or rasp (chisels should be used very sparingly—they are dangerous weapons), finishing with glass-paper. The partition is housed into the two end pieces, that is to say, its ends are sunk into grooves $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide and $\frac{1}{8}$ in. deep, cut in the end pieces. These grooves can now be made, first marking two lines $\frac{1}{2}$ in. apart in the centre of each end piece. For cutting to any specified depth, hacksaw blades fitted into pieces of board, the board acting as both handle and gauge, are very useful. For the present purpose the blade would protrude $\frac{1}{8}$ in. from the edge of the board, so that,

when that depth is reached, sawing will automatically stop. Having made the two cuts, the waste wood is removed with the Router or "old woman's tooth," a kind of plane with blade adjustable to the depth of groove; or the waste may be removed by paring with a chisel. It is hardly necessary to give details of the assembling, except to say that in this model the bottom projects for a quarter of an inch all round. Nails can be used for joining up the parts, or flat-headed screws for the bottom, and round-headed screws for the remainder.

Practically all the tools required for ordinary woodwork have now been mentioned, the following completing what may be regarded as a full kit for the beginner: a pair of dividers for spacing-out work, and marking circles and curves; a pair of pincers; a mallet; a spokeshave for cutting curves; an oilstone and oilstone slip for sharpening the edged tools; a keyhole saw; a G-cramp; a nail punch; one or two gouges, which may be described as curved chisels; and an adjustable sliding gauge.

The following suggestions for additional articles may be useful: cooking board, book trough, match box holder, window box, book shelves, poultry trough, shelves and brackets, hat and coat rack, boot brush holder. These are all fairly simple, but when proficiency has been attained, various wooden toys and the innumerable whitewood articles required by craft workers for decorating might provide remunerative employment, to say nothing of chairs, tables, and other articles of furniture. Again, there is a fair demand in the blind world for stool frames for seating with cane, rush, or seagrass. Turned legs can be bought cheaply, and the remainder of the work executed without much difficulty by the sightless carpenter, who might, if he wished, do some seating also.

A useful little manual is "Carpentry for Beginners," Evans Bros., Ltd., Montague House, Russell Square, London, W. C. 1, price 3/6, to which the reader desiring to pursue the subject further is referred. Here it has been possible to take the novice only a short distance along the road that leads to master craftsmanship; but something will have been accomplished if interest and enthusiasm have been aroused. The writer would venture in conclusion to stress the importance of approaching the work in the right spirit, the spirit in which it has ever been approached by all really great craftsmen. "Art is best thought of as fine and sound ordinary work;" and, conversely, fine and sound ordinary work is best thought of as art—*is* art, in fact.

A. G. K.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

Leeds Incorporated Institution for the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb.

IN presenting the Annual Report of this Institution, Mr. W. P. Swan, the Superintendent, said that employment at the Workshop had been regular. Full time had been maintained, and an augmentation allowance of 18s. per week had been granted to all workers. The year's sales from trading departments were £16,631, as compared with £17,558 in the previous year. There were 811 blind persons registered in the Leeds City area, 112 in the Leeds (West Riding) area and 402 deaf and dumb persons. Wages, supplementary allowances, etc., totalled £9,759. Pensions, relief and other forms of benefit to blind workers amounted to £4,667, and similar disbursements to deaf and dumb people to £124. Financial assistance was given to 343 blind people.

Aberdeen Blind Asylum.

AT the Annual Meeting of the Governors of the Aberdeen Asylum for the Blind it was reported that the Workshops were to be reconstructed at a cost of £5,000. Further accommodation is needed owing to the fact that a greater number of blind people are taking advantage of the training facilities under the Blind Persons Act. A larger number of blind persons is now under the care of the Asylum. In 1921 wages paid to blind workers, foremen and sighted assistants, together with insurance, etc., amounted to £6,839; last year the figure was £11,202. There were 78 workers in 1921; now there are 122. On the other hand the subscriptions have dropped from £1,607 in 1921 to £1,521 in 1927. The Report shows that the Trading Department has had a successful year, the gross sales amounting to £14,105, an increase of £1,714 over the previous year. The new showrooms and sale shop in Huntly Street were well supported during the year.

SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND IN THE WEST INDIES



MR. EDWARD E. ALLEN, Director of the Perkins Institution and the Massachusetts School for the Blind, recently went for a cruise in and about the Caribbean Sea, visiting Schools for the Blind in the West Indies. On his tour he compiled some interesting notes which he has kindly permitted us to publish.

In an introductory note he says that the "California" gave them two days at both Havana and Port of Spain, Trinidad, and one day at San Juan, in each of which places is a school for the blind. He discovered the Trinidad Institute by accident. He explains that "ninos" is the Spanish for "children," "ciegos" the Spanish for "blind."

Tuesday, March 1, 1928. Havana. Temperature 76. Pleasant, and when motoring, even cool. Sñeorita Leon and sister meet steamer, motor us to the *Instituto Nacional Cubano de Ciegos*, now two years old, and housed in two hired and restored Colonial mansions,—extensive, roomy, airy, marble-floored, Spanish tiled, and generally satisfactory. But the patio is a crowded garden, allowing no playgrounds. Institute a private foundation supported by contributions, the Department of Public Instruction meeting costs of schooling. I find 18 or 20 young resident pupils; two instructors, the one, resident and experienced, is the Directora, from Spain, whence came most of the appliances and books; but the Perkins principle of pupil contributory housework is in evidence. Señorita Leon, non-resident, teaches both manual and physical training, also use of plasticine. Says the pupils have improved remarkably this year in self-confidence and carriage, her class demonstration bearing out this claim. They have even marched with other school children in a street procession. They sing for us sweet Cuban music, accompanying themselves on guitar, clappers, and gourd rattles, popular instruments in Cuba.

Wednesday, March 2. Receive early steamer call from an English-speaking official of Department of Public Instruction, under which school for blind operates. Official car. Presents us in form to his chief who politely chides me in Spanish for not having given him notice of our visit to Havana that he might have received us with fitting ceremonial. We are bowingly dismissed.

Julio having joined us, we alight at the little school. Am interviewed both by our official escort and by a press reporter. We are photographed, once with Ladies' Committee and Staff, once with pupils and Staff. See pupils at their midday meal.

My impression is that, considering the difficulties of starting any such pioneering enterprise, this little school has done remarkably well.

Friday, March 16. Port of Spain, Trinidad. Hot but tolerable. While motoring I spy a blind man and am told of an institute for such there. Visit it for one and a half hours, the balance of my stay. Over doorway is the legend: "The Heritage of the Blind is the Good-will of the Sighted." Entering the ample, old but well-kept, two-story mansion I see in one double room a class of nine children, another of eleven women, and in an annex twenty-six men, among them a war-blinded soldier; everybody black as well as blind,—the three teachers too. Dining room having roof but no walls is delightfully cool. The children are resident; the adults attend daily between eight and three; dinner provided them. The head teacher, who had studied at the Royal Normal College, London, is fine looking and alert; interested in music and literature; reads Ziegler Magazine; does not recall ever having received before a visitor from another school for the blind. I speak to each group;—the men being especially responsive. They have a little orchestra, its clarinettist needs Braille music which I promise to send. Everybody well and happy. The day being Friday, the resident matron in charge paid the adults their weekly wage, each man receiving the equivalent of two dollars and each woman that of one dollar. Products of the men are baskets and door mats; of the women, raffia table mats and the like.

The Institute (I failed to note its titular name) is a private charity, maintained partly by donations and subscriptions (boxes in public places), and partly by government. On the streets afterwards I saw two blind men begging—one an aged, turbaned Hindoo.

The service to the blind and to Trinidad of this combined school and employment shop is salutary. I was pleased and touched to see it there. For, having found nothing done for

the blind as such elsewhere in the lesser islands I had nearly missed this one.

Tuesday, March 19. Anchor off San Juan at five p.m. Loaiza having sent us radio message, we go ashore at once and are welcomed at pier by her, by her staff of teachers whom we are eager to see again, and by her committee. The committee president, who is also assistant director of the Insular Department of Health under which the school for blind children functions, motors us out to Santurce, the residential suburb where it is located. Meet the twenty-five pupils aged from five to eighteen; find them attractive in face and bearing, also in their single English sentence: "How do you do?" . . . . . .

The *Instituto de Ninos Ciegos de Puerto Rico*, though sponsored by the Association for the Benefit of the Blind of Porto Rico, is a "State school," the pioneer and only one of its kind on the island. Opened in 1920, at Ponce, it is a monument to the resourcefulness and persistency of its Directora. Its present realization is: nine acres of land and two buildings, one being the general residence provided by the Junior Red Cross, the other, erected by the government, a grand new structure for school and administration, both of them one-story and fire-proof, but handsome and adequate in every way. Built on three sides of a rectangle, one side for girls, one for boys, it provides in all essentials for a future maximum of 150 pupils; cost only £33,000. No auditorium as such—but by folding back divisions of three spacious classrooms you have one. At present two of these rooms contain beds to be used until number of new admissions, which depends upon increased appropriations, shall justify another cottage or two. School desks from the United States, also the dozen Braille-writers. Present stock of about 200 loose-leaf textbooks in braille were written in Spanish by a staff member who will soon begin embossing by means of the plate-maker presented by the New York Institute through Principal Van Cleve. As might be expected, the atmosphere is essentially that of the parent school at Watertown.

I am gratified to find in full swing here, as in Havana, the principle of pupil self-help; in other words, the training for maximum independence through daily contributory effort on the part of those for whom the institute is conducted.

A ROYAL VISIT

WHEN Their Majesties were in Nottingham last month, they visited the Royal Agricultural Society's Show, and spent some time at the Stand of the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind. Here they inspected the processes of brushmaking, rugmaking, hand-loom weaving, round and flat machine-knitting, boot-repairing, typewriting and Braille writing, also exhibits of the completed articles made by the blind workers. Their Majesties chatted with some of the blind workers, one of whom took down from dictation the following message, which was afterwards typed out:—

"The officials and workers of the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind very warmly welcome your Majesties' visit to the Institution's exhibit; it makes the blind very happy to know that they have your Majesties' interest and sympathy."

AT the Yorkshire Choral and Instrumental Competitions held at York, the following successes were gained by pupils of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, York:—

Choral Section Girl Guides.

26th York (King's Manor) Co. gained *second* place with 172 marks (1st Class Certificate)—total entries 23.

Junior Piano Duet (under 14).

Olive Stead and Thomas Christian gained *first* place with 170 marks (1st Class Certificate)—total entry 7.

Junior Piano Duet (under 16).

Hilda Lockwood and Lily Edmunds gained *second* place with 174 marks (1st Class Certificate)—total entry 9.

Junior Piano Solo.

Olive Stead gained a 2nd Class Certificate with 166 marks.

"I AM glad you are confident of my tranquillity under the loss of my sight, and of my attention and regard to strangers. Why should I not cheerfully endure that privation since, considering it not as lost but as *drawn within*, I may hope that it will whet the edge of my mind?

"So I am not out of humour with study, nor do I intermit its pursuit; notwithstanding it has punished me severely. The example of Telphus, the Mysian King, who did not refuse to be healed by the same weapon as that which wounded him, has warned me against peevishness."—*John Milton.*

ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND



THAT the education of blind children should begin at the earliest possible moment was the leading note struck by Dame Jessie Wilton Phipps and Mr. Guy Campbell in their addresses at the Royal Normal College Prize-Giving on Friday, July 20th. This annual function is always a very pleasing one, and the presentation of the prizes, certificates and diplomas is eagerly anticipated by the pupils and their friends. Previous to the prize-giving, there was a display of gymnastics, Braille shorthand and typewriting, swimming, piano-tuning and other activities, and classes of geometry, arithmetic, geography and nature study were held in the open air.

Dame Jessie presented the prizes, and delighted the pupils with her cheery words of congratulation and encouragement. For the last 21 years she has been associated with the London County Council, and she takes a very special interest in matters connected with the welfare of the blind. Expressing keen appreciation of all she had seen that day, she said that it was most important that the children should live in an atmosphere as full of music and as full of education as was this College. She was pleased to say that two College-trained typists were working at the London County Council. Several blind tuners were also in the employ of the Council, one of whom had been there for 23 years. She said that there were nearly 700 self-supporting graduates from the College, who, had it not been for their training there, would not have been earning their livelihood as they were now doing. Of these, 84 per cent. were in good situations, earning good money and doing useful work.

A delightful programme of music, including part-songs, choruses, solo songs and pianoforte solos, was provided by the pupils, all of whom acquitted themselves admirably.

The awards included College prizes and certificates, certificates of the Oxford Local Examinations, and musical awards. Lack of space prevents us giving a full account of the pupils' successes; but we should like to mention that David Williams, aged 18, has obtained the coveted Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, with the Lafontaine Prize, and Lance Gibson has become an Associate of the Trinity College of Music. The following become Licentiates of the Royal Academy of Music :—Muriel Berry, Kathleen Poor and Sarah Beddow; the latter also becomes an Associate of the Royal College of Music. The Alfred Hollins Annual Organ Prize, awarded to students who present the largest repertoire of pieces for the organ, any of which can be played when called for, was won by Stanley Kenworthy. The musical essay composition given by Dr. Shinn was presented to: seniors, Florence Easter and May Walker; juniors: Edwin Gates. The Dixson Annual Prize Essay was awarded to May Walker, the Lady Francis Campbell Annual Recitation Prize to Ivy Cooke, and the Philip Layton Annual Tuning Prize to Walter Stabback.

To these and to the numerous other prize-winners—too numerous to be mentioned by name—we offer our sincere congratulations.

AT the Annual Meeting of the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind, which took place on 12th July, Mr. W. H. Tate was presented with a framed photograph of himself in recognition of his services on behalf of the blind of Bradford. He has been connected with the Institution for 48 years, is Chairman of the Pensions Committee and also of the Homeworkers' and Social Welfare Committee, and has always interested himself deeply in the care of blind children.

THE 48th Annual Meeting of the North London Homes for Aged Blind Christian Men and Women was held on June 7, when the Annual Report was submitted.

During the year 15 new residents have been admitted to the London Homes, and two have been transferred from the Home at Southend. Throughout the year the general health of the residents has been very good. The oldest resident will shortly attain her one hundredth birthday.

The financial statement showed, on the income and expenditure account, a balance in hand of £204 as against a deficit last year of £858, which was accounted for by certain repairs which had to be carried out. The cost per resident, it was stated, was 22/6 to 23/- per week.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
LIST OF ADDITIONS
July, 1928.

FICTION.

	Vols.
*Arnim, Countess von. Introduction to Sally	3
Bowen, Marjorie. Boundless Water	5
Boyle, C. Nina. The Rights of Mallaroche	5
Clarke, Isabel. Case of Conscience	6
Connolly, H. Money for Something	4
Crompton Richmal. Anne Morrison	5
,, ,, The House	4
Fairbank, Janet A. The Smiths	7
Farjeon, J. J. At the Green Dragon	5
*Jesse, F. Tennyson. Tom Fool	3
Lehmann, Rosamond. Dusty Answer	5
*Leroux, G. Mystery of the Yellow Room	3
*McCarthy, J. H. If I were King	2
Marshall, Archibald. Clintons and Others	5
Norris, Kathleen. Barberry Bush	6
Pedler, M. Yesterday's Harvest	4
Phillpots, Eden. Pan and the Twins	2
Snaith, J. C. Van Roon	4
Thompson, E. An Indian Day	4
Walford, L.B. Her Great Idea and Other Stories	3
Wallace, Edgar. Door with Seven Locks	
Young, F. E. Mills. Broken Silence	5

JUVENILE FICTION.

Ballantyne, R. Pirate City	4

MISCELLANEOUS.

Barrington, E. "The Ladies" (A Shining Constellation of Wit and Beauty)	3
Bell, Lady. Selected and Edited by. Letters of Gertrude Bell, Pub. 1927	13
Belloc, Hilaire. Oliver Cromwell	1
Chesterton, G. K. The Everlasting Man	5
Collinson, C. W. Life and Laughter 'midst the Cannibals. (South Sea Islands)	5
Ellis, Havelock. Dance of Life	6
Grenfell, W. H. Off the Rocks—Stories of the Deep Sea Fisherfolk of Labrador	2
Hicks, W. P. The Present World Crisis	1
James, M. R. Italy of the Renaissance Part II. "The Christian Renaissance" from the Cambridge Modern History. (E. W. Austin Memorial)	1
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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1928

SEPTEMBER Vol. XII No. 141

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

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The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XII.—NO. 141. SEPTEMBER, 1928. PRICE 3D.
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AN APPEAL WHICH APPEALED



WHEN one considers that almost day by day the general public are asked to support innumerable national and local bodies working for the relief and welfare of handicapped people of all classes and kinds, it is really astounding that the response to these appeals, in nine cases out of ten, is so satisfactory.

We think that this readiness of the public to listen and respond to the cry of the unfortunate is the greatest proof that mankind is, *au fond*, definitely on the side of righteousness, in the true sense of the word. Sympathy can only bloom on a healthy tree, but healthiness of spirit does not necessarily imply sympathy. Before the birth of Christianity, healthiness of spirit certainly existed, but it very rarely flowered into the supreme loveliness of impersonal self-sacrifice because it lacked the gentle waters of a religion of love. De Quincey, in his study of the subject, remarked the total absence of public charity prior to the birth of Christ. The spirit of goodness certainly existed—one finds it in the old Greek philosophies, in the Greek epics and tragedies—but it existed unallied to a religion which made of it the very basis of its theology. To believe in a Creator, in "the goodness of good and the badness of bad," in the stark justice of the Fates towards man in his unknown, mysterious mission—all that was possible with a recognition of the Pagan gods, but until these ideas were leavened by the superb command "Love thy neighbour as thyself," their fruits were seldom more concrete than a yearning towards a Golden Age, which, as an actuality, was as visionary then as it is visionary now. But in those days, when death was only sorrow, the Golden Age was a vision of the past; in these days, the Golden Age is a vision of the future, compacted in the present from the experience of the past. The difference is as broad as the span between despair and hope, regret and aspiration, dream and fact.

We have been naturally led into these remarks by the magnificent response to the appeal broadcast on August 12th, by Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., for donations in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind. We understand that it was broadcast from the London station only; it was specifically for the London blind alone; it was made in the heart of the "dead" season. Yet there were over 4,000 individual replies!

For the benefit of those of our readers who did not hear them, we give below Sir Beachcroft's actual words.

Sir Beachcroft said:

"To-night I am the representative of thousands. I am speaking for all the blind of Greater London, and I give you plainly, at once, their urgent, simple message: 'Help us to help ourselves!'

"As simple as this message, is the means of responding to it. You need only support the Greater London Fund for the Blind. This Fund is a central fund with one sole object: the welfare of London's blind. To

effect its object in the most businesslike way, the Fund distributes whatever it collects amongst the registered societies, workshops and institutions for the blind in Greater London. These societies provide means of education, such as embossed literature and music; maintenance and training; regular employment; homes for the aged and infirm; and the relief of acute distress.

"If you who listen to me lost your sight, you would find that all these societies would do their utmost to arm you for the grim fight you would have to face. Blind myself, I know that *every* blind person has to go through that fight—and it is a *bitter* fight, I can assure you, a fight against a feeling of utter uselessness that saps the brain and stifles the soul, a fight against the feeling of overwhelming despair that renders you almost incapable of any effort. By degrees it comes home to you that your work and your life—as you knew it—have ceased. Your hopes and your ambitions are shattered—you are confronted with the knowledge that no more have you the right to give an order or to resent an interference, which, in a sense means that you are no longer a man, and that henceforth you are wholly dependent on the kindness or the neglect, of others.

"Fortunate indeed are they, who—strong enough of character—can recognize these truths in time and realize that unless they master blindness it will master them.

"But these feelings must be killed—mastery must be made and with your aid we can kill them—we can make the victory. All the money in the world cannot restore sight to a blind man's eyes; but to the blind child, you can give education; to the blind adult, training and employment; to the blind poor, clothes and food; to the aged blind, rest. And to *all* the blind of London for whom I appeal, you can give the sympathy that consoles, the understanding that inspires, the hope that encourages.

"As I speak to you now, I picture you in your homes, with familiar faces near you. I picture you on holiday, by the sea, in quiet country villages, in gaily-lit hotels—with all around you, visible to your eyes, the countless details in the fascinating pageant of life. Your memories are full of endless pictures. In a second you can conjure up a loved face, a beautiful view, a brilliant festival—and you owe that marvellous gift to one priceless sense—sight.

"Take away that power—and what would life be worth to you? What would *all* the sunshine of a holiday be, coupled with the perpetual night of blindness?—I beg you to ask yourself to-night in all sincerity, that question—What would *all* the sunshine of a holiday be, coupled with the perpetual night of blindness?

"I believe I know how all of you will answer it. You will simply thank God that you *can* see—and send me as much money as you can spare for those who *cannot*.

"One last word. Wherever you are—whether you be at home or on holiday, resident in London or on a visit to London, do make a point *now* of passing round the hat—Help us to help ourselves. Do by your response to-night enable the Fund to continue and increase its great work for the blind of Greater London, for although it cannot make up to them for their loss of sight, it can, with your aid, give them something to occupy their thoughts, some small happiness in life, some small chance of re-instating themselves as self-respecting, self-supporting citizens and of taking their place again as useful members of the community."

WELFARE OF THE BLIND IN SCOTLAND

THE eleventh annual conference of the Scottish National Federation of Societies for the Blind was held in the town hall, Arbroath, on June 8th. Ex-Baillie Dollan (Glasgow) read a paper entitled "A municipal experiment," describing the scheme managed by a joint committee of some twenty-three municipal and county councils in the South-west of Scotland, which had taken over the administration of the workshops of the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind. This involved a capital expenditure of nearly £32,000, and though the workshops were not expected to be self-supporting, the deficit last year had been comparatively small. Negotiations had taken place with the Outdoor Mission for the Blind with the object of bringing all blind welfare schemes under unified control by municipal authorities. The number of blind persons employed in these Glasgow works had increased from 278 to 500.

Dr. J. Parlane Kinloch, medical officer of health for Aberdeen, stated that in 1927 there were 6,937 blind persons in Scotland, but year by year the number of blind children was steadily diminishing.

THE BLIND AT MARBURG

THE International Union of Blind Academicians, which has a permanent secretariat at Geneva, met last September at the quaint old university town of Marburg in South Germany. This Union includes members from all countries who have studied or have received a college education, and aims at bringing them together with a view to the exchange of ideas and experiences in their studies and professions. Further, and above all, it endeavours to promote the exchange of scientific literature in embossed type, and to create an international secondary school library of blind literature.

The Swiss journal *Blindenbote* reports that the gathering at Marburg was a small one representative of people bound together by the same handicap, anxious to overcome it and to develop their minds in every possible way. Many have found their work in the care of the blind, either as teachers, librarians or publishers of blind literature; others are teachers of sighted pupils. There were lawyers and parsons, and also a professor of literature and psychology at a French university. A number of subjects was touched upon, including questions of an administrative nature and proposals for a standardised system of embossed type for Latin, Greek, Hebrew, mathematics and music. A suggestion was made for the formation of an international conference for the care and organisation of the blind. The chief importance lay in the fact that the blind members met together and were able to discuss their positions with absolute freedom.

That the Conference took place at Marburg is of interest, for in this town there is a school for the higher education of the blind, a hostel for blind students, a large printing press, and a well stocked secondary school library of embossed scientific books. The school and the students' hostel are situated in a beautiful park which is provided with gymnastic apparatus of all kinds. Blind boys and girls who, for the most part, are resident in a blind institution, attend the school from their sixteenth year onwards. The hostel has accommodation for twenty students, and contains bedrooms which are simply but pleasantly furnished, a splendid dining-room, music-room and library. The house is under the care of a trained nurse, and among the residents are several foreigners. The pupils are prepared for the university entrance examinations, and recently commercial courses were added to the curriculum. A great feature of the training is that the pupils are allowed to go about as freely as possible among sighted people and to go into the town without guides. When they have passed their university entrance examinations, they move to the hostel in Marburg and attend the university, or matriculate at another secondary school, according to choice. Various careers are open to these blind students of whom many turn to the study of philology or history and become teachers of these subjects. Others again study national economy, jurisprudence or theology. Those who have attended the Marburg School find it easy to continue their later studies. They are acquainted with all the details which facilitate the work of the blind, are able to use an ordinary typewriter, and have learned to work rationally and to know exactly when they can proceed independently and when it is best to ask for sighted help.

Next to the hostel, where the students lead a happy life, are the printing works which turn out a considerable quantity of up-to-date literature in embossed type. In the basement is a workshop where new technical apparatus is thought out and constructed. The library, which consists principally of text-books likely to be of use to the blind students, is housed in a number of rooms. Its contents are at the disposal of all who are blind, foreigners as well as Germans, without payment. As the international postage on blind literature is so small, there is a constant exchange of books with all countries. The Institution was originally started in 1917 for the men blinded in the war; to-day it is open to war-blinded and civilians alike.

THE Rev. Thomas Holehouse, who is totally blind, has been placed in charge of St. Anne's Church, Newton Heath, Manchester. Mr. Holehouse was trained at Henshaw's Institution for the Blind, Manchester, and afterwards became Assistant Master there. Later he went to London as a visitor to the blind, and afterwards had five years' training at the Manchester Baptist College. Mr. Holehouse looks after the Day School and Sunday School, preaches, lectures and organises without any outside assistance.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR TEACHING AND TRAINING THE BLIND

THIS year the annual prize distribution of this Society took place at the Mansion House by invitation of the Lord Mayor. First a short programme of music was given by the pupils, all of whom acquitted themselves splendidly, the part-songs, in particular, being beautifully rendered by the School Choir.

In welcoming the guests, Sir Charles Batho recalled the fact that it was 90 years since the Society had started on its beneficent career. He congratulated the prize-winners on their success, and comforted the others by assuring them that it was not the winning of prizes that mattered most, but the attitude of the pupils towards their work and play. Quoting Stevenson's words "It is better to travel cheerfully than to arrive," he said that it was better to work hard and steadily, to slog along with a stout heart at lessons and at play, than to come out top at the end of the term. It was the eager, questing spirit, the refusal to shirk, the determination to be honest through and through, that made for ultimate success in life.

The Chairman, Mr. P. W. Chandler, gave a resumé of the activities of the Blind School from the time of its inception in Fitzroy Street to the present day, and of the progress made in the education and training of the blind. They had, he said, 140 journeymen who were being paid Trade Union wages supplemented by an augmentation allowance. There were four sale and five work-shops and a hostel for 30 girls. In 1918 their numbers were 80; to-day they were 500. In 1918 their expenditure was £5,000; to-day it was £70,000. Alluding to the home workers' scheme as one of very great importance, he said that their district extended for 100 miles from Newbury in the West to Harwich in the East, and covered an area of 3,000 square miles. On their books were the names of 168 home-workers, whose wages were supplemented to the extent of from 3/- to 15/- per week. For this work they had a supervisor and two assistants who visited the workers in their homes, paid their wages, and arranged for the transport of manufactured goods and raw materials. Mr. Morris, of Messrs. Morris Cowley, had recently presented them with a new car for this work, their old one having covered 140,000 miles. Dr. Ritchie said that they now had over 500 pupils whose ages varied from 5 to 83. Every endeavour was made to keep the elementary school abreast of the latest methods.

The Lady Mayoress presented the prizes.

According to their Annual Report, which is just to hand, this Society paid out the sum of £6,820 in salaries and wages, and £8,467 in augmentation of wages during the year. Donations and legacies totalled £13,634, and Government grants to the value of £9,154 were received.

NEWS ITEMS

THE first Conference of Workers among the Blind in South Africa was held at Bloemfontein in July, and approved the principle of the formation of a National Council for the Welfare of the Blind in the Union.

* * *

THE latest addition to the Workshops of the Aberdeen Asylum for the Blind, which are to be reconstructed at a cost of £5,000, is a brushmaking department. Brooms and brushes for all household purposes are made by the blind workers, and according to Mr. George Wilson, Chairman of the Governors, they are finding a ready sale.

* * *

FIVE hundred blind men, women and children were present at a cinema performance in a New York theatre, when movietone pictures were supplemented with aural descriptions by a director of the Fox Film Organisation. Among other celebrities heard, "visualised" and applauded were George Bernard Shaw, Governor Smith and Commander Byrd. All were able to follow closely the development of screen drama.

* * *

THE boys of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind at Newcastle, who have for some time constituted a patrol of the 20th Old Berwell Troop of Boy Scouts, have recently been enrolled as the 26th Troop of the Newcastle West Division. At their formal enrolment, Professor F. Smith formally handed over the regulation forms. He said that he had been greatly impressed by the simple dignity of the initiation ceremony which was a small representation of what was behind the great Boy Scout movement—the spirit of brotherhood, friendliness, sympathy and help. The boys entered with certain disadvantages in being blind, but everything would be done by the Boy Scout movement to help them.

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

Mr. ERNEST WHITFIELD, Ph.D.



TO accept misfortune and disappointment only as a challenge to one's mettle, and steadfastly to use every new and unexpected obstacle as but a stimulus to higher endeavour, is indeed a lofty conception of life, and few there be who attain to it. If, however, this is to rise to the full stature of a man, then, whatever else Dr. Ernest Whitfield may be—musician, scholar, or travelled man of affairs—it is his personality *as a man* which excites our admiration and commands our esteem.

Born in London on September 15, 1887, he comes first into our ken as a child of seven struggling with the primary difficulties of the violin, of which instrument he was destined to become so consummate a master. Although he worked with characteristic zeal at his beloved fiddle, and a few years later took up the study of the piano and the theory of music, yet it was then without any intention of qualifying for a musical career.



ERNEST WHITFIELD.

Educated at Archbishop Tenyson's and University College Schools (obtaining Scholarships at both), he entered fully into every phase of School life, and sports of all kinds fascinated him—running, swimming, rugger, etc. (he was House Captain). At chess he excelled, and while a member of the University College School Chess Committee he met and beat the Chess champion of Hampstead for the School team. He joined the Debating Society, and, as might be expected, he also became Secretary of the School Musical Society and organized a School Orchestra which gave fortnightly concerts at the School. He became a Prefect, and on his matriculation (first class) he was offered two scholarships at London University, and in 1906, while still at school, he passed the Intermediate B.Sc. (London).

Ambition for a public career, either in politics or diplomacy, filled his mind, when suddenly such aspirations were ruthlessly ruled out by economic stress, and, instead, he found himself compelled to enter the world of Commerce. In 1907, therefore, he went to Vienna as English secretary to an important Austrian firm. Having acquired a working knowledge of English and colonial commercial and industrial law, he subsequently became the legal adviser of the firm in such matters, and was ultimately entrusted with the management of a department.

While engaged on this work the second blow fell, for his sight had begun to give way owing to some cause which has so far baffled many eminent oculists, both in England and abroad, whom he has consulted. His "sentence," as he calls it, was that in four years his sight would be gone. He struggled on, however, remaining with his firm for another two and a half years, during the latter part of which time all documents had to be read to him by his secretary—which he himself described as "an impossible situation where speed was necessary," and so he had once again to consider the possibilities of a new profession.

As we have already seen, he had always been keen on Music; indeed his love for the art was of such a nature that he hated the thought of "commercializing" it by using

it as a means of earning a livelihood. But the problem of how to live had to be faced, and so, although he felt himself being almost driven into a profession he had sought to avoid, yet he admits that it brought him the incalculable compensation of being induced, by sheer force of circumstances, to attain that proficiency (the writer would call it " virtuosity ") which gave him the means of fuller self-expression. It was indeed fortunate that, at this juncture, he was resident in Vienna, where he was able to obtain the best musical training possible. He took up anew the study of the Violin with Arnold Rosé, of the famous Rosé String Quartette, and attended lectures at the University, working also at Counterpoint and Composition with Arnold Schönberg. Realizing how precious time was, he sedulously set to work to memorise as much music as possible while his failing sight held out, and in the meantime he was able to secure a sufficient number of pupils to carry him along, when, at the close of 1909, he resigned his office duties. Unwilling to distress his parents, he kept from them the knowledge of his sight trouble. As they lived far away in London this was not very difficult, and as there was not (and is not yet) any external evidence to proclaim the defect, he was able to hide the full truth from them, even when he came to visit them, by the exercise of a little adroitness.

During this transition period the candle had indeed to be " burnt at both ends, and in the middle," for, added to the strain of the office duty, performed under an ever increasing handicap, he spent many hours daily in qualifying for the professional musical career he now had definitely in view. Despite the fact that business hours were from 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (with a break of one and a half hours for lunch) he contrived daily to devote at least four hours of his spare time to violin practice, and to attend concerts, operas, etc., as well as to obtain recreation by walking and swimming. In 1912 he presented himself for examination, in Vienna, for the Austrian State Diploma for teaching. The whole examination is held in public and is oral—a severe ordeal. As Mr. Whitfield could not see to read, the examiners found it difficult to determine what to do about the Sight-reading and Transposition tests. One of the Examiners, misunderstanding the decision of the board, instructed someone to play a piece of music over once, and then asked Mr. Whitfield to play it from memory a tone higher. This difficult and somewhat unreasonable test was successfully negotiated, but the President, Professor Dietz, came to Mr. Whitfield after the examination and apologized for the mistake of his colleague.

By 1913, he had established himself in Vienna as a soloist and teacher, and his engagements were such that one day a week he was teaching continuously from 7 a.m. till 10 p.m. In the same year he made his bow to a Viennese audience as a concert player, by giving a public recital (Sonatas). Every seat was sold, the press enthusiastically recognized the new player, and victory was within his grasp, when that catastrophe occurred which shattered the careers of millions . . . the Great War!

Obliged to return to London—unable to take any part in defence of his country by reason of his sightlessness—he found himself, after eight years of absence, a stranger in his native city.

Once more he had to begin from the beginning, and what could be more agonizing than such a struggle, in 1914 of all years, when music itself had been thrust out of the thoughts of most people? Up to this time Whitfield had no knowledge of Braille, and his sight was now reduced to a degree which simply sufficed to enable him to get about with comparative safety.

By pure chance he met Sir Arthur Pearson, and, through him, got into touch with the National Institute for the Blind, and accepted an engagement to tour with the St. Dunstan's Blind Musicians Concert Party, which was then attached to the Institute. But the strain of constant travelling in those difficult days proved too much for his strength, and he was compelled to leave, and to continue with such teaching and concert-playing as he could secure. Nor was he long out of harness, for, in October, 1917, he succeeded (by not revealing the fact of his loss of sight) in gaining a post as leader of a small London orchestra. Those who know Whitfield intimately are aware of his prodigious powers of quick and accurate music-memorization, and, relying on these, he managed to get hold of the programme two days before the first performance (and rehearsal) and memorized the music. This went on for a week, when he informed the Musical Director. Now, as this gentleman had already expressed his unqualified approval

of his new leader's work, he could not dispense with his services on the ground of their inadequacy owing to blindness! And so, although Whitfield himself admits he could not have hoped for a moment's consideration as an applicant had the Musical Director guessed the situation, yet he retained his position until 1919, when he resigned, after holding it for nearly two years. Dr. Whitfield cites his own experience as an instance to prove that adequately trained blind musicians can, under trying circumstances, fulfil orchestral duties which, in the judgment even of musical people, would seem to be quite outside the range of possibility. In his opinion many blind pianists are eminently suited to the duties of theatre orchestras, of dance or of night-club bands, or other similar combinations of instrumentalists.

In 1918 Mr. Whitfield made his first appearance as a soloist at the Queen's Hall Promenade Concerts, London, playing on that occasion Lalo's famous "Symphonie Espagnole" for violin and orchestra, a work of extreme difficulty, first performed in England by Sarasate at the London Philharmonic Society in 1875.

In 1920 Mr. Whitfield was most happily united in marriage with Miss Madeline Howard, daughter of Mr. Ernest Howard, whose home in London has long been the resort of many people of distinction in the world of Art and Letters. Highly accomplished, and devoted to her gifted husband and his pursuits, one instinctively thinks of this gracious lady as one would of Clara Schumann, and of the late Lady Elgar.

About this time Mr. Whitfield became more than ever impressed with the great difficulties which the Concert artist (sighted or blind), has to face—difficulties which not only decreased his earning capacity, but also seriously affected the quality of his work. He came to the conclusion that some endeavour should be made to bring artists into touch with one another, so as to enable them to reap the benefits of co-operation, not the least of which arise out of the pooling of experience and of mutual incentive to higher achievement. Mr. Whitfield discussed the project one day with a friend who had had considerable experience in running "lost causes," and towards the end of 1920 they managed to get a number of well-known artists interested, and so founded the "Guild of Singers and Players," an Association which has already done much useful work in London, and gained the approbation of the responsible Press.

Early in 1921 Mr. Whitfield gave a successful Recital in Florence—Pizetti writing a glowing critique—and in 1922 he played at three big concerts in Vienna, in addition to other engagements. Within little more than a week he played the Lalo "Symphonie Espagnole" at a Sunday concert in the Grosser Konzerthaus Saal (the largest in Vienna) with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra; then the Brahms, Mozart (in A), and Delius violin concertos (the latter being a first performance) with the same orchestra, in the same hall, all three concertos on one evening, a truly remarkable feat. Then followed two Sonata Recitals, embracing Sonatas by César Franck, Lekeu, Medtner, Arnold Bax (No 1), John Ireland (No. 2), and Elgar, most of them first performances. The press was excellent, and critics commented with appreciation upon the opportunity afforded them of hearing new British works. Mr. Whitfield brought forward the works of his countrymen partly out of a sense of duty, as an Englishman, to do pioneer work, and in an endeavour to help to break down continental prejudice against British music. In this he was so successful that he was offered a continental Recital tour, that opportunity of a life-time for which all concert performers long. He was also invited to give the first two performances of the Sibelius Concerto, with large orchestra, in the same concert hall. A few weeks later he played the Brahms, Mozart and Delius Concertos with the world-famous Berlin Philharmonic orchestra in Berlin. There again he had a most cordial reception. Everything seemed to point to a triumphal tour of the Continent, when a great and unexpected disappointment occurred, occasioned by a breakdown in health of so serious a nature that the tour had, perforce, to be completely abandoned. Indeed, he was told that he must give up the bulk of his musical work for some years, and was allowed to play only very occasionally, *e.g.*, when he gave the first performance in Edinburgh of the Sibelius Concerto with the Reid orchestra in the Usher Hall of that city, Professor Donald Tovey conducting. He also performed the Lalo "Symphonie Espagnole" on the same occasion. The reception of the Sibelius Concerto was so enthusiastic that he was requested to return to the platform and play

a Bach Gavotte as an encore—an unusual procedure at the Usher Hall Concerts.

Forbidden, as he was, to return to the concert platform as yet, his active nature drove him to make a deeper study of subjects which had always interested him, *e.g.*, Economics, Political Science and Philosophy, and, as a result, he graduated at London University in 1925, taking the examination one year before the specified time, by special permission. During this period—with the exception of concert playing—Mr. Whitfield carried on his normal work as a musician and kept up his technique as a soloist.

In 1928 he was made a Doctor of Philosophy of London for a thesis on Gabriel Bonnot de Mably, a French pre-Revolution philosopher whom even the French seem to have neglected, in spite of his importance. The examiners in reporting on the thesis observed :—

> "We venture to draw the Senate's attention to the fact that Mr. Whitfield is blind, and that the great amount of detailed research required for his thesis makes the quality of its achievement even more remarkable."

Dr. Whitfield, indeed, has compiled the only complete treatise on de Mably and his work, and the University of London considered it so excellent that the London School of Economics has, we understand, intimated its desire to publish it. And here comes an illuminating flash-light on the character of Whitfield, the student, who naïvely remarks in this connection that he "cannot be bothered any more with the book now that it is finished, though" (he adds) "it fascinated me while I was researching." In speaking of this research work, however, he claims for his wife that "she did practically all the reading that was necessary for my studies and thesis—a colossal undertaking for her, inasmuch as there was practically nothing in Braille I could use, and it meant hunting in the British Museum and at the Bibliothéque Nationale, as well as at the Archives Nationales in Paris for old documents relative to my man." And, at this point, he abruptly and characteristically goes off at a tangent and assures me that he is "*now hunting wildly for Concert Engagements !*"

What *can* one say of such a man ?

One thing certainly must not be left unmentioned, *viz* :—that he is taking a deep and practical interest in the inauguration of a new scheme, the "Society of Friends of Blind Artists," which has for its object the special care of those whose gifts as music students seem to warrant the hope that they will ultimately blossom into performers or composers of high rank. To watch their after-career until they become firmly established is another of its aims.

Finally, Dr. Whitfield's technical knowledge of stringed instruments was of great assistance to the committee of experts appointed by the National Institute to revise the Braille music-notation system, especially in dealing with the "stringed instruments" section of the "Key," an epoch-making treatise which was published in 1922.

We are glad to learn that, with renewed health and undiminished zeal, Dr. Whitfield is now contemplating a fresh and extended concert tour overseas. May there be no further set-backs to mar his well-deserved triumph.

And now we must take our leave of him, happy in his art, his home—a little daughter having recently completed his felicity—and in a circle of friends who know how to appreciate his genius as an artist, and his loveableness as a man.

EDWARD WATSON.

ENTERING the Fulwood Homes for the Blind, Preston, as a girl of 13, Miss Mary Ann Whittle has just completed fifty years with the Institution. Twelve months after entering the Homes, Miss Whittle was transferred to the Workshops' Cane-Seating Department, where she has been employed ever since. A noteworthy feature of the celebration which took place in her honour was that both she and the Head of the Institution, Lieutenant-Colonel Jolly, J.P., had each had fifty years' association with the Homes. She was presented with an expanding bracelet Braille silver watch.

BLIND Babies' Flag Day will be held in Greater London on September 22nd, and in the West End on September 25th. Will all who are willing to help send in their names as soon as possible to Mrs. Claremont, National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, London, W. 1. Helpers are urgently needed in all districts.

"BY A WAY THAT THEY KNEW NOT"



N all English-speaking countries to-day the position of the blind is improving. Everywhere the light of Humanity and Research penetrates with increasing power, and the work goes further and further afield. From the most distant parts of our far-flung Empire we hear of the establishment of schools and institutions where the blind are taught and trained to take their places in the world, and the National Institute, with its up-to-date stock of books and apparatus, is continually being called upon to provide the materials of education.

An instance we have in mind is afforded by a call made on behalf of the blind of Jamaica by the Salvation Army. This great British institution, whose roots have spread all over the world, has added to its many deeds of mercy by opening a school for the blind in Kingston, Jamaica. Already it has enrolled 20 pupils, is in touch with 100 sightless people throughout the Island, and has organised an Association of 300 members to teach the blind reading, writing and handicrafts. It has, too, a clothing bureau which is particularly useful for the blind school children. Last, but not least, realising that the students must have as much good reading matter at their disposal as possible, it has formed the nucleus of a circulating library of Braille literature. Last winter the help of the National Institute was solicited, and 70 Braille volumes were despatched by them to the Island. In acknowledging the gift, Mrs. Barrell, wife of the Divisional Commander at Jamaica, wrote : " It is very wonderful to see how the system opens up their minds, and what joy is expressed on their countenances." And, again, " It is surprising how some of them who are ripe in years are getting hold of the Braille and appreciate it so very much." We learn that the volumes are housed in special cedarwood cases to protect them from the destructive insects of that climate.

The official opening of the School and Library took place on July 3, the Acting Governor of the Island presiding. There was a demonstration by blind students, addresses on blindness, and numerous musical items both religious and secular. A blind Jamaican read : " I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not, I will lead them in paths that they have not known," and of this reading of Isaiah's words Mrs. Barrell wrote " It was one of the finest I have ever heard."

From the Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind came the following cabled greeting : " Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, Chairman, N.I.B., England, sends greetings and good wishes from Council to School for Blind, Kingston, opening July 3. Letter following." This message was greatly appreciated by the recipients, as was Sir Beachcroft's letter which arrived later and ran as follows :—

" Mrs. A. M. Barrell,
" Salvation Army Headquarters,
" Kingston.

" Dear Madam,

" It is with very real pleasure that I send a message of goodwill towards the School for the Blind that you are opening to-day in Kingston. It is only through specialised education that the blind are able to overcome their handicap and enter into the full life of the modern world. Blind people are not helpless, they are not abnormal. They have the same desires, the same hopes, the same ideals as people with sight, but their way through life is more difficult, and they need, in place of the light of the sun, the diviner light of human kindliness. I am a blind man myself, and I have come into contact with almost every type of blind child, man or woman, and they are as various as the stones of the sea-shore, yet I have scarcely met any who desired other help than the help which enables them to help themselves.

" The blind of Jamaica are a section of the blind of the British Empire, and just as the Empire is a great entity, so are the blind of the Empire a great entity. The National Institute for the Blind, of which I have the honour to be Chairman, treats the blind in Jamaica exactly as it treats the blind of England. For example, if a blind person is resident in the farthest corner of the British Empire, he is allowed, in respect of Braille literature and music published by the Institute, exactly the same discount—two-thirds of the cost price—as the blind person resident in London.

" But there is a greater brotherhood than that which any imperial tie can form. In whatever country or clime we may meet it, goodwill towards all men binds all nations

together. Wherever those with sight help the blind, and wherever the blind respond to that help by hard work and high courage, there we find the spirit of the Prince of Peace, and it is that spirit which dissolves all difficulties and consecrates us as servants of one Lord and Master.

"May God bless your School and prosper it in every way.

(signed) "E. B. B. Towse,
"(Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C.,
K.C.V.O., C.B.E.)
"Chairman,
"National Institute for the Blind,
London."

We learn from further correspondence that the Salvation Army has sent one of its instructors to Bermuda and Honduras where there are 30 blind people hitherto untaught. There is cause for thankfulness in the thought that something is at last being done—and ably done—for these sadly neglected people "of many shades of colour," who form part of the British Empire.

THE BLIND IN FLANDERS

OUR attention has been drawn to a Flemish organisation called The General Society for the Blind in Flanders. We learn from the Treasurer, M. Oscar Moreels, that the idea of the Society emanated from the blind themselves, who were desirous of attracting the attention of the public in order to obtain assistance to earn their own living.

M. Frans Fiten, the Head of the Union of the Flemish Blind, founded the Flemish Group of Blind Students, also the Central Library for the Flemish Blind, to which was added the Library for the Blind from Antwerp-West. Later he founded The General Society of the Blind of Flanders.

The Association is hoping to raise a fund for editing music for the blind, and has decided that it shall go by the name of the first donor of 5,000 francs or more. On payment of 5 francs, 25 francs or 100 francs, persons become either Actual, Honorary, or Protecting Members of this Association. The payment of 300 francs or 1,000 francs ensures the title of Honorary Member for Life.

The aim of the Society is that the blind members should be treated as independent citizens.

OBITUARY

THE death has occurred of a friend of the blind, Mrs. A. J. Story, formerly Matron of the Blind and Deaf School, Stoke-on-Trent, of which her husband was Headmaster from 1895 to 1924.

* * *

WE regret to announce the death last month of Dr. Charles Chree, the distinguished authority on terrestrial magnetism and atmospheric electricity.

Dr. Chree was born at Lintrathen, Forfarshire, in 1860, and was educated at Aberdeen and Cambridge. After a brilliant university career, he became Superintendent of Kew Observatory, a post which he filled for 32 years. During part of his tenure of office he was responsible for testing thousands of chronometers, watches, thermometers and other scientific instruments, until the work was transferred to the National Physical Laboratory. His writings included "Studies in Terrestrial Magnetism," a discussion on the magnetic results obtained by the British Antarctic Expedition in 1910-1913, and articles on "Atmospheric Electricity," "The Aurora," "Earth Currents" and "Terrestrial Magnetism" in the eleventh edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, of which he received the Hughes Medal in 1919, and he held the degrees of D.Sc. (Cambridge), and LL.D. (Aberdeen).

Dr. Chree was greatly interested in the cause of the blind. He was a member of the National Institute's Education Committee and formed one of a deputation to the Ministry of Health in connection with Chorley Wood College. His advice on subjects connected with the blind world was most valuable.

THE new workshop—in addition to the existing workshops—which has been erected by the Warrington, Widnes and District Society for the Blind at a cost of some £2,000 to meet the growing requirements of the Society, was formally opened on July 20th, by the Mayor of Warrington. The Society has 187 blind persons within the Borough of Warrington upon its register.

AN outstanding figure in the French House of Deputies is M. Scapini, who is blind. He is said to be an orator of no mean order.

PRIZE DAY AND A PRESENTATION AT WORCESTER



THERE was great enthusiasm at the Annual Speech Day and Distribution of Prizes at Worcester College on July 27th, when the gymnasium was filled to its utmost capacity with pupils and guests. On the platform were Lord Cobham, Chairman of the Governing Body, who presided, Canon W. R. Dawson, Headmaster of Brighton College, who distributed the prizes, Archdeacon James, Mr. J. R. Anthony, Mr. Guy Nickalls, Mr. G. F. Mowatt, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Captain Vincent Ranger, members of the College staff and the head boys.

The gathering was a very happy one, and speakers and prize-winners were greeted with warmth. Lord Cobham spoke of the anxieties and the hopes of the past year. With regard to finance, he said that the year had been one which gave them greater hope for the future, and they had therefore embarked upon a scheme to enlarge and improve the school buildings, which next term would provide ample accommodation for their 47 pupils and room for any possible extension during the next few years.

The headmaster, in presenting his report, said that the boys had worked hard, had done well in swimming and rowing, and had proved quite invincible at chess. He dwelt at some length on the subject of careers for his pupils, which still forms an acute problem. The Rev. Canon Dawson presented the prizes, and expressed intense admiration of the work, describing it as work of a national character which it could clearly be shown satisfied the consciences of the generous-hearted in every way. Its assets included a governing body of which any school might be proud. He said that the public schools of England were looking on with interest at the miraculous work which was being done at Worcester College. It was marvellous that the College should send more boys to the universities than any other school of its size in England.

A vote of thanks to Canon Dawson was proposed and seconded. After this great enthusiasm was aroused by a ceremony which took place in honour of Mr. G. F. Mowatt, Hon. Secretary to the Governors, who was presented with an illuminated address handsomely bound in pigskin leather. Lord Cobham, in making the presentation, said that it was difficult for an Englishman to speak in praise of another Englishman in his presence, but in this case he did not mind getting over the difficulty. Of all the great names of men who had worked for the College, it was no exaggeration to say that none could give the same help and encouragement as had been given by Mr. Mowatt. He had done work for his old School of which any man might be proud. Mr. J. G. Curran, Captain of the Swimming Club, read the words of the address from a Braille copy as follows :—

" To Godfrey Frerichs Mowatt, Esquire, Justice of the Peace, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the College.

" Dear Mr. Mowatt,

" Although we know that you would be the first to recognise that it is the duty and privilege of all to serve the interests of the school wherein they were educated, yet the services which you have rendered to the College have been so numerous and of such outstanding merit that we, who represent the Board of Governors, the staff and the present and past members of the College, have thought that the time has come when there should be made a formal recognition of these services.

" Having entered the College in 1887, you left in 1891 to devote your great abilities and inexhaustible energy to the service of your fellows. In 1915, at a time when, hampered by restricted resources, the College was struggling to enlarge its sphere of usefulness, you became a member of the Board of Governors and brought to the counsels of that body a courage and imagination which rendered such expansion possible.

" The demands of the growing College for more buildings have consistently received your enthusiastic support, and that the acquisition of the Headmaster's house, the boathouse, and the swimming bath is about to be crowned by the erection of a new assembly hall, an enlarged dining hall, and additional class-rooms and dormitories is due entirely to your persistent efforts and business ability.

" An enthusiastic oarsman yourself you fostered by your example, your generosity and your policy the growth of our young

Boat Club, then struggling in inferior boats and without a home, but now fully equipped and splendidly housed.

" The Chess Club, the Union, the Old Boys' Union, in short every branch of our work has been so strengthened by your timely support and sympathetic interest that the College is now able to carry on its work with a larger scope and greater efficiency than had previously been contemplated. So that like Prometheus you can boast (here follows an extract from Æschylus, which translated is " I gave them brick-framed houses facing the sun. I alone gave to their watermen wave o'er-skimming craft, canvas winged ").

" And not only for these material benefits do we wish to thank you. Your enthusiasm and optimism, the splendid courage with which you face and overcome all difficulties that confront you, and your self-sacrificing devotion to duty furnish an example and an inspiration to all, whereby they are encouraged to go forward in the work that lies before them.

" Therefore, we ask you to accept this memorial as an expression of our gratitude for the inestimable benefits which you have conferred on the College, of the affectionate regard in which all who have the privilege of working with you hold you, and of our admiration of the ability and distinction with which you serve your fellow men. We pray that God, to whom your good works are commended, may as a reward for these works give you many years, all filled with happiness, with health, and with prosperity."

This address was signed by Lord Cobham, the Headmaster, the head of the school, the captain of the boats, the captain of swimming, the captain of chess, the secretary of the Union, and the secretary of the Old Boys' Union.

The motto on Mr. Mowatt's coat-of-arms, which appeared in the address, is : " Commend your good works to God."

Replying to the address, Mr. Mowatt said he was very grateful, and to pretend that he was not proud, pleased and gratified would be simply humbug. He paid tribute to those who had worked for the College before him, with especial reference to Sir Washington Ranger, and said that he had had the privilege of the friendship of Lord Cobham and his fellow Governors. It was he who ought to be grateful to them for the chance of helping others. The address to him meant just everything.

The prize-winners were :—

Greek, G. P. Jones ; Latin, G. J. I. Miller, E. R. Grant, J. E. Jarvis, W. H. Jones, O. P. Khosla ; Pearson Mathematics Prizes (in memory of Sir Arthur Pearson), A. R. N. Cross, W. G. Coppage, and H. W. Gamble ; Himing English Prizes (in memory of H. L. Himing), P. A. Hughes, C. F. Brown, G. Bromley ; Pearson Essay Prizes, F. Moss and R. H. Burton ; History (presented by the Headmaster), G. J. I. Miller ; History (presented by Mrs. L. Browne), F. Emery ; Divinity, A. R. N. Cross and E. Leary ; Modern Languages—*A* (presented by Mr. P. L. Debard), G. J. I. Miller ; *B.*, J. E. P. Pollard-Lowsley ; *C.*, J. E. Jarvis ; Economics, A. R. Pocock ; Examination Prizes (S.C. 7 credits), R. F. Ash ; (S.C. 4 credits), A. E. Martin ; Music, F. Emery. Successes reported since the last Speech Day were : R. F. Ash, School Certificate with 7 credits ; A. E. Martin, School Certificate with 2 credits ; G. J. I. Miller, Lower Certificate with 4 firsts ; A. R. N. Cross, Lower Certificate with 2 firsts ; V. Nelson, B.A., Manchester 2nd Class Honours, English ; R. H. Rees, B.A., Keble College, Oxford, 3rd Class Honours, Jurisprudence ; M. Bates, B.A., Keble College, Oxford, 3rd Class Honours, Jurisprudence ; C. D. Wheeler, B.A., Queen's College, Oxford, 3rd Class Honours, English ; A. R. Lloyd, B.A., Non-Coll., Oxford, 4th Class Honours, English ; P. S. Sumner, B.A., Lond. B.Sc. (Econ.) Degree, 2nd Class Honours ; W. V. Miede, B.A., Durham, Law Society's Final Examination ; H. H. Coldwell, M.A., B.C.L., Oxford, Law Society's Final Examination ; H. J. Hargreaves, B.A., B.C.L., Oxford, Law Society's Final Examination ; R. W. Bonham, Oxford University Chess Team *v.* Cambridge ; and R. W. Bonham, College First Boat Summer Eights (6 bumps).

A VERY gallant rescue from the River Danube, at Budapest, was effected by a blind boy, who, hearing cries for help, plunged, fully-clad, into the river and swam in the direction from which the cries had come. He succeeded in reaching another lad who had been carried away by the current. With considerable difficulty, says the *Central News*, the blind boy managed to reach the shore with his burden.

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

BOOT REPAIRING—I



BOOT repairing may be regarded as a home craft that is more useful than ornamental, its value lying not in the fact that it provides an outlet for artistic expression, but that it checks the outlet from the family purse in the form of boot repairing bills—no small matter where youthful football and hop-scotch players are members of the family. At the same time the work is interesting and provides opportunity for the exercise of craftsmanship, not the least of its advantages being the satisfaction derived from the knowledge that it is of real service to others. In its simpler forms it is well within the powers of the average blind handyman, although the elementary instructions given here for the benefit of the novice are not sufficient to justify him in setting up in business as a boot repairer. To do this successfully workshop training is necessary; here no pretence is made to do more than show how simple repairs can be done by the sightless amateur in cases where precise workmanship and perfect finish are not essential.

The ordinary tools used by the boot repairer are few and inexpensive, one of the essential items being a Last over which the boot is placed during nailing and other stages of the process. The triple one, having a large foot, small foot, and heel piece, which can be bought at any ironmongers for about 1/9 is commonly used by amateurs, or there is the complete iron foot which rests on an upright held between the knees of the worker. A shoemaker's knife (about 1/–), a shoemaker's hammer (about 2/–), glazing iron (about 1/6), pincers, rasp, and strop for keeping the knife sharp are other essential items which can be obtained from any grindery shop. The last named item is of wood with shaped handle, the remaining part being square with emery cloth of varying grades on three of its sides, and leather on the fourth. The stropping process is begun on the coarsest side, and continued on the others in succession, finishing up on the leather.

The chief material used is, of course, leather, which varies considerably in quality and soundness. Thin pieces should be selected by the beginner, as these are easier to cut than the thicker. If a piece has cuts or other flaws on the underside, reject it, as it will make the work more difficult, and will not resist wear like a sound piece. Ready-shaped pieces can be obtained in most places, and, with his metal pattern as a guide, the worker will have no difficulty in getting correct sizes, bearing in mind that the piece should always be a little larger than the sole or heel for which it is intended. Leather for soles and heels should be soaked in water for five minutes, and then hammered lightly on the underside to render it tough, otherwise the first time the boots are worn in wet weather the leather will "give."

Nails or rivets for attaching soles and heels are either of brass or steel, the latter being the cheaper and answering the purpose quite well. Nothing longer than three-quarters of an inch (for heeling) will be required.

RE-HEELING.—This is perhaps the simplest work of all, and, therefore, most suitable for the beginner. If the heel of a boot be examined it will be found to consist of a number of layers of leather, called "lifts," and the heel will in all probability be worn down to the second if not the third "lift." The first thing is to remove the top "lift" altogether, which is accomplished by placing the boot with its side resting on the bench, prying up the top layer with a screwdriver, and tearing it off with the pincers, holding the remainder of the heel with the left thumb while this is being done. Any nails which have been holding the top layer in position are now drawn out with the pincers, but those of the second layer are hammered down close, as this layer is not to be removed. The boot will now be on the iron heel or foot, where it is placed as soon as the top layer has been removed. In the case of the second "lift" which is now the uppermost, only the worn part is removed, this being done with the aid of a fine saw, or blade of a penknife placed across heel in the required position and struck with the hammer. Thus a kind of step is formed, and if the third "lift" is worn also, this is treated in a similar way and another step formed.

The missing portion of the third "lift" is now replaced by a small piece of leather of suitable size and thickness which is nailed

lightly into position, the second "lift" being treated in the same manner, when the heel is ready to receive the new top "lift." Having cut out or obtained ready cut, a piece of suitable size slightly larger all round than the heel, place this in position and secure with a nail in centre of heel. Nailing round edge of heel is now proceeded with, the straight side being done first, holes being made with the heel marker to receive the nails. The only difference between the single and double heel marker is that the latter makes two holes at a time while the former makes only one. In either case the tool is placed with its longer points against the edge, and moved along after each tap with the hammer so that the left-hand marking point rests in the right-hand hole. The edges are now neatly pared with the edge plane, and the job completed by blacking with Indian ink or black stain, and polishing with ordinary blacking.

A. G. K.

(To be continued.)

A "SUNSHINE" MATINÉE

ON Tuesday, July 10th, Mr. P. J. S. Richardson, Editor of the *Dancing Times*, gave his Annual "SUNSHINE" Matinée to the Blind Babies' Homes, at the Apollo Theatre. All present agreed that this year's programme was, if anything, better than that of previous years. Miss Mary Wigman of the Dresden School of Dancing delighted the audience with her weird but wonderful "Witch" Dance, followed by "Monotony," an equally skilful creation. Miss Ulla Poulsen (from the Royal Opera House, Copenhagen) won all hearts with her charming "Menuet" and "Danube Waltz," finishing her performance with a "Peasant Dance from Jutland," which was applauded uproariously.

There were also the ever-popular favourites Anton Dolin and Vera Memchinova, who, although they were at the last moment unable to give "Les Sylphides," delighted their audience with six beautiful items. The Ensemble and Tap Dancing specially prepared by Mr. Max Rivers were much enjoyed, and his team of dancers was highly congratulated. Mr. Rivers himself gave some wonderful demonstrations of tap dancing. The great English Schools of dancing were ably represented by Miss Ninette de Valois, Madame Rambert, The Cone School, The Croydon School and others.

"THE PASSAGE IN PARK LANE"

READERS who want a real good book for the holidays should get this very promising novel, which, by the way, is written by the General Editor of the National Institute for the Blind. In the Passage they will find Surprise—Romance—Adventure. They will join the lovable Mr. Merriman in his attempts to unravel its mystery. Leaning over his shoulder, they will read the story of two noble houses which, like the Montagues and Capulets before them, were rivals throughout many generations. Breathless, they will find the cypher chess problem between the pages of the story, and their investigations will lead to the discovery of the conspiracy against one of these noble houses, and of the plot to kill many millions of souls.

They will read the book not only for the sake of the main story, but for the many incidents—grave and gay—in which it abounds. Last, but not least, they will enjoy Mr. Rowley's choice of language, which makes of it not only a good story but an excellent piece of literature. E. G.

THOSE interested in social and industrial problems will welcome Mr. Ben Purse's book "The British Blind—a Revolution in Thought and Action," to be published by Messrs. Buck, Bros. and Harding, Ltd., on Tuesday, November 6th. Would-be purchasers should note that the first edition will be a limited one, and that all correspondence relating to the book should be addressed to the publishers at 6 and 7, West Avenue, Walthamstow, E. 17. The price of the book is 5s. net.

WE learn that Canon C. E. Bolam, Rector of South Willingham, has been presented by the Lord Chancellor with the Rectorship of Greatford-with-Wilsthorpe, Stamford, where he will take up his new duties in the early autumn. The new Rector, who has ministered for two years at South Willingham, was the founder, 14 years ago, of the Lincoln Blind Society, and is now its Secretary. He is a member of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind, and for the past nine years has been Chairman of the Eastern Counties Association for the Blind. Canon Bolam's autobiography appeared in a recent issue of the *Beacon*.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

DAME MADGE KENDAL came forth from retirement in the country specially to appeal for the Fund at the delightful "Afternoon of Dance and Song," arranged by Miss Nellie Chaplin. Her little speech was fragrant of the rose-filled garden which she had left, and drew a substantial sum from the pockets of the audience, which included the Countess of Ypres, the Mayor and Mayoress of St. Marylebone, Lady McClure, Lady Newbolt, Lady Bonham-Carter, Miss Lambert-John, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Gribble, Mr. James Fagan, The Rev. Noel and Mrs. Kynaston Gaskell, the Director of Trinity College of Music, etc. Mr. Ben Davies, who made one of his now rare appearances, was enthusiastically received; Miss Chaplin and her sisters had also the help of Miss Christine McClure and the Chelsea Singers; while Mrs. Felix Warre assisted Miss Dorothy Chaplin and her clever pupils in their delightful ancient dances. The programme was confined to music and dances of the Elizabethan and Stuart periods.



AT THE BALHAM GARDEN FETE.

Another "Afternoon," this time of Plays, was arranged at the Arts Theatre Club by Miss Elsie Fogerty under the special patronage of The Lady Ampthill, the performers being students of the Central School of Speech and Drama. Three plays, well chosen to provide a varied programme, and an amusing Mime—arranged by Irene Mawer—were much enjoyed by the audience. Miss Faith Celli made a moving appeal which filled the collecting bowls of Miss Isabel Jeans and her helpers.

Mrs. Anquetil was "AT HOME" on July 10th at "Beechwood," Reigate, that her friends might hear Lady Fulton speak of the work of the Greater London Fund. Mr. H. C. Preece also spoke, and music was provided by Miss Isabella Vass, L.R.A.M., and Mr. Thomas Watson of the G.L.F. Blind Concert Party.

The Party gave concerts during the month under the auspices of the North Middlesex, Enfield, Shepherds Bush, Oetzmann, Gamage and Nealson, and Woodford Wells Cricket Clubs, and also provided an excellent programme at the Garden Fête at Balham for the joint benefit of the Fund and the 3rd and 4th Balham British Boy Scouts—familiar helpers on "Geranium Day." Rain spoiled the opening day—and the financial result—but the fine new Headquarters of the troops provided a shelter in which the Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce performed the opening ceremony. She was accompanied by her husband, and together, between the showers, they patronised the side-shows and consulted the palmist, who seemed, however, more certain of the past than of Mrs. Bruce's future chance of crossing the Channel! Mrs. Curran-Gadsden opened the Fête the second day, bringing with her a party of friends, including Lady Burbidge, Captain and Mrs. Fitzgerald and Professor and Mrs. Erskine, Mr. and Mrs. Mackie, Miss Adey, and Mr. Frostick of the Tooting "H.O.B." rendered invaluable service. The Streatham "Toc H" must be specially mentioned among other self-sacrificing helpers.

BLIND from birth, Louis Phillippe Lainesse, of Quebec, is studying Law at the University of Montreal, after having saved up sufficient money to pay for his courses by selling brooms. He has his examination questions put in Braille.

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

		s.	d.
2500	The Moon System of Embossed Reading (Inkprint Edition)	0	2
2740-2742	"The Devil's Pool," by George Sand, 3 vols. (Limited Edition) per vol.	12	0
2486	"The Taking of the Redoubt," by Robert Browning	3	0
2487	"The Half-Brothers," by Elizabeth C. Gaskell	6	0
2488	"Mr. Beelbrow's Lions," by Stacy Aumonier	4	0
2489	"The Friends," by Johann Ludwig Tieck	5	6
2490	"The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," by Mark Twain	3	6
2491	"A New England Nun," by Mary Wilkins Freeman	6	6

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National Institute for the Blind

CLASSICS.

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
Euripides,	Hippolytus (Trans. by Gilbert Murray)	1
Robinson, C. E.	Genius of the Greek Drama	1

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Chesterton, G. K.	Robert Louis Stevenson	2

HISTORY.

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LAW.

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Trustee Act, 1925		1

MODERN LANGUAGES.

Maurois, A.	La Vie de Disraeli	5
Sauer, C. M.	Italian Grammar	4

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Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
Mace, C. A.	Sibylla, and Schiller, F.C.S. Cassandra	1

POLITICAL SCIENCE.

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NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
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FICTION.

	Vols.
Cornhill Magazine, 1926, Sheaves, from	4
Garnett, D. Go She must	3
Graeme, Bruce. Blackshirt	4
Hope, Sir A. Little Tiger	4
Lewis, Ethelreda. Flying Emerald	3
Lincoln, J. C. Keziah Coffin	5
Rickard, Mrs. V. Old Sins have long shadows	5
Silberrad, Una L. Sampson Rideout, Quaker	5

JUVENILE.

Marchant, Bessie. Two new girls	2
Turner, Ethel. Family at Misrule	3

GRADE. III.

Bradley, H. D. Towards the Stars	4

MISCELLANEOUS.

Boissier, G., trans. A. D. Jones. Cicero and his friends; a study of Roman Society in the time of Caesar. ("E. W. Austin" Memorial)	6
Carey, W. J. Kingdom that must be built	2
Deane, A. C. Life of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury	3
Hamblin, H. T. Within you is the Power	1

MISCELLANEOUS—contd.

Hardy, T. J. Spiritism in the light of Faith: a comparison and a contrast	2
Langston, E. L. The Jew	1
Leathes, Sir S. Italy of the Renaissance, Part III. Italy and her Invaders. From the "Cambridge Modern History" ("E. W. Austin" Memorial)	1
Nicholson, H. Swinburne. (English Men of Letters)	3
Pollack, B. Death and ——?	1
Smith, H. Maynard. Frank, Bishop of Zanzibar. (Bishop Weston, 1871-1924)	6
Tchehov, A. (Trans. Constance Garnet). Cherry Orchard: a play	1
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Trevelyan, Mrs. History of Italy: from the IVth Century to 1922	2
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ESPERANTO.

Casas, J. G. Kataluna Antologio	11
Mair, A. Vinnaj Legendoj	1
Moffett, C., and E. S. Payson. Karto Mistera	1

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the August Numbers)

Progress.—Curiosities of Caste—Nottingham's New University—Dowsing: A Mystery—Some Grand Bridges of Wales—Speech and Language—Matters of the Moment—Crossword Puzzle—Correspondence—Our Prize Competitions—Advertisements—Half Hours with the Best Hairdressers—The Beaver—Sleeping out of Doors—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page. Fiction: The Actor—Janson pays his debt. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—What is a good Novel?—"The Passage in Park Lane" (review)—The Process of Mechanisation in the Musical Art—Cock-fighting—On Tuchuns—The End of the Forsytes—The Making of a Poet—Notices: (Scholarships for the Blind—Piano Playing Contest)—On Names. Supplements: Announcements—Provision for Unemployable Blind persons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Contra-Indications for Ultra-Violet Therapy—Goitre—Light and Heat in Medicine—Medical Electricity No. 3—News in the Massage World—Income Tax Returns—The Treatment of Poliomyelitis—Notes by the Way. Supplements: Massage Journal Inset—Observations on the Treatment of Infantile Paralysis—Official Notices—The Diagnosis of a limp (to be continued). Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Tobias Matthay—How to Test a Pianoforte—Can you Answer these?—Colour and Sound—Answers to Questions—Notes and News concerning the Blind—Special Notice—National Piano Playing Contest. Supplements: Braille Musical reviews—Announcements—Provision for unemployable Blind Persons. Inset: Music Coupons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Channels of Blessing.—God's Statutes the Pilgrim's Song—Flowers of the Dust—Notes on Zechariah—A Wish—Our Letter from India—A Brave Little Teacher—"Light in Darkness" Birthday League—Deaf-Blind Helpers' League—Notice to Readers—Enough—Redemption—Prayer by the Wayside—In the Twinkling of an Eye—Prayer Union—Gleanings Inset: "Channels of Blessing" Supplement—The Philippian Jailor—The Lesson Illustrated.

Moon Magazine.—The Missed Appointment—The Old Scrap-Book—Insect Hunters—The Singing Shovel—Can you Beat it?—What is a Waterspout?—Animals and Alcohol—The Moon System.

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Heat of Formation—Cross-word Puzzle—News Items—Gardening Notes—Stageland—Correspondence—The Poet's Corner—Favourite Quotations—Advertisements and General Notices—Unemployment and Insurance. Supplements: 1. Literary: Speeches that made History—Misadventures of MSS.—"The Evening Primrose" (poem). 2. Music: Grieg—The Musician of the North—Coupons—"Perhaps" Waltz, by F. Quinn (8543)—"The Ship of Rio" (song), by F. Kee (8551). 3. Announcements. 4. Provision for Unemployable Blind Persons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—Where all the Year is Summer—The Real Life of a Maharajah—A Cuckoo at the Wrong Door—National Library for the Blind—The Romance of Nikko Cheyne (Book III. 1-3)—A Swallow Emigrant Returns—A Little Visit from a Great Tit—Thought for the Month—A King becomes a Knight—Raining Frogs and Rats—The weight of a "Heavy" Cloud—The wife who ran away and how she came back—Have you Missed Anything?—"Robot" Selling Machine.

Radio Times.—A weekly periodical, containing an Authoritative Résumé of Programmes Broadcast from all Stations of the British Broadcasting Corporation. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world and keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. (Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.)

The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)

"Sunshine House," Home for Blind Babies, Birkdale, Lancs. (Approved by Board of Education). **Kindergarten Teacher Required** for September for approximately 20 blind infants three to seven years of age. Froebel and/or Montessori qualifications. Nursery School experience and music (specially aural training methods) an advantage. Salary Burnham Scale. Apply with testimonials to National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8, Great Portland St., London, W. 1.

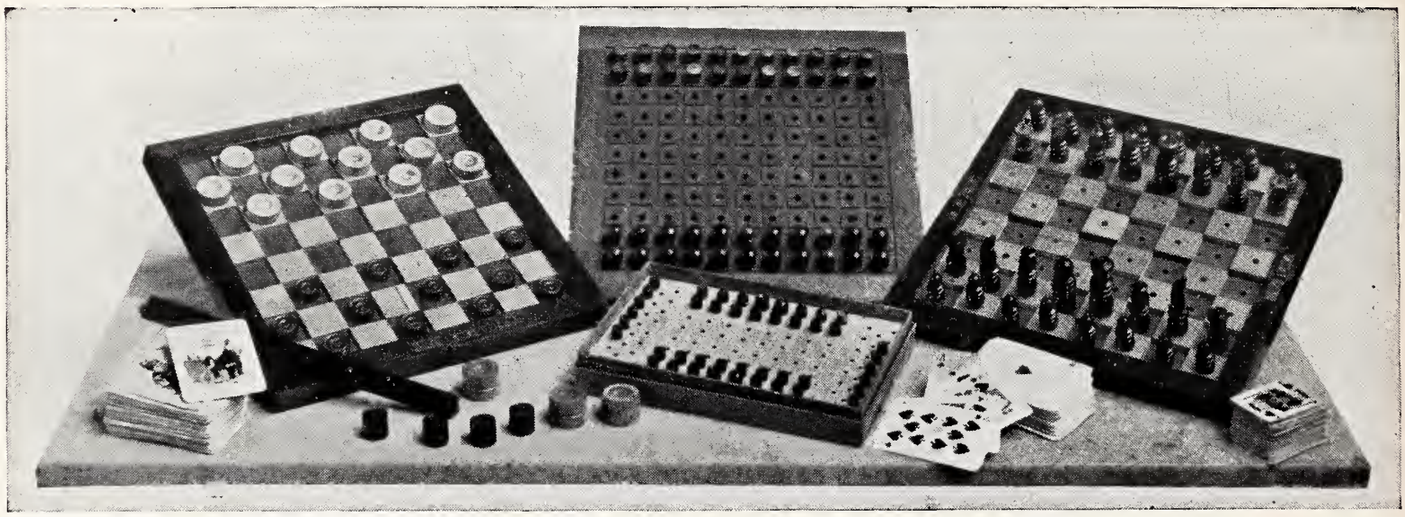
PETERBOROUGH ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.

WANTED—Home Teacher and Visitor. Commencing Salary £156 per annum. Qualified Teacher preferred. Apply stating age, experience and qualifications, and enclosing testimonials to Rev. Canon Blakeney, The Precincts, Peterborough.

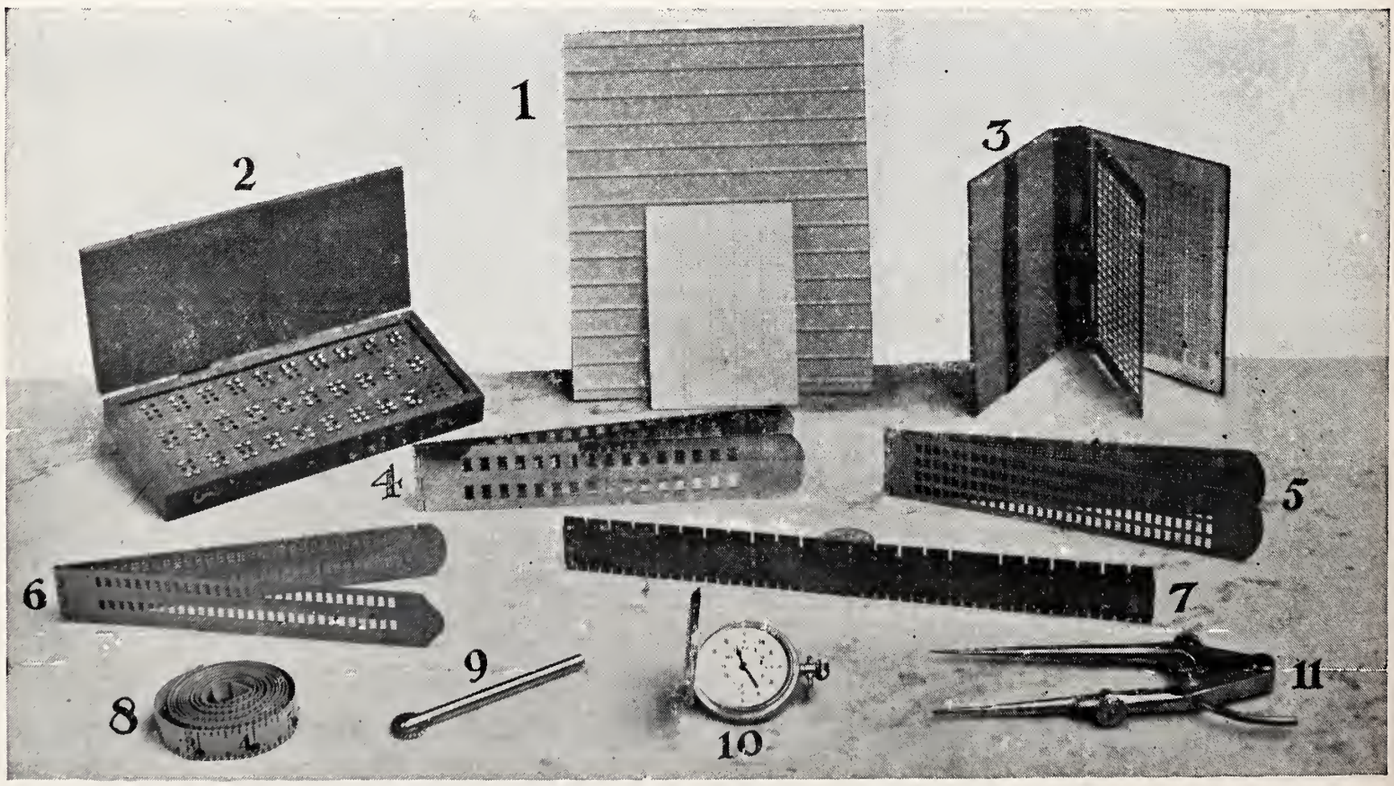
WANTED, for Belfast, young lady nursery governess to take care of little sightless boy aged five years: able to teach Braille. Apply, Aylmer, Sun Brae, Balmoral Avenue, Belfast.

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1928

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.
The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
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	DANCE—		
8669	" Say that you're sorry," Song Fox-Trot, by P. Ballard and T. Waring, pocket size	2	0
8670	" After I've called you sweetheart," Song-Waltz, by L. J. Little, pocket size	2	0
8671	" Do you ? " Song-Waltz, by B. Mayerl, pocket size	2	0
8672	" In my little dream house on the hill," Song Fox-Trot, by Vincent Rose, pocket size	2	0
8673	" In the sing-song sycamore tree," Song Fox-Trot, by H. Woods, pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
8674	" Young love lies dreaming," by E. L. Bainton, F, Compass C to E flat, pocket size	2	0
8675	Serenade (Ständchen), by Brahms, E flat, Compass B, to E′ natural,	2	0
8676	" Enchantment," Waltz-Song, by Henry Geehl, E flat, Compass E to C′, pocket size	2	0
8677	" I know where I'm goin'," arr. by Herbert Hughes, A flat, Compass C to E′, pocket size	2	0
8678	" Pur Dicesti," by Antonio Lotti, D, Compass D to E′	2	0
8679	" I'll sail upon the dog star," by Henry Purcell, C, Compass A, to E′, pocket size	2	0
8680	" I will go with my father aploughing," by Roger Quilter, A flat, Compass C to E′, pocket size	2	0
8681	Five Plantation Ditties, by Various Composers: " Uncle Ned," " So early in the morning," " Polly-wolly-doodle," " Massa's in de cold ground," " The Old Folks at Home," pocket size	2	0
8682	" Verborgenheit " (Secrecy), by Hugo Wolf, D flat, Compass C to F′.	2	0
	DUET—		
8683	" Night Hymn at Sea," by Thomas Goring (for Soprano and Baritone), pocket size	2	0

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

		s.	d.
2743–2750	" By Order of the Company," by Mary Johnston, 8 vols. (Limited Edition) per vol.	12	0

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

		s.	d.
	FICTION—		
8102-8105	" Colonel Gore's Second Case," by Lynn Brock. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 4 Vols. per vol.	8	6
7916-7919	" The King's Achievement," by Robert Hugh Benson. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 4 vols. per vol.	8	6
7925-7930	" The Knights of the Cross," by Henry R. Sienkiewicz. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Paper Covers, 6 vols. per vol.	6	6

(*Continued on page 4 of Cover*)

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XII.—NO. 142. OCTOBER, 1928. PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

ANNUAL REPORT



IN order to obtain the sympathy of the public it is necessary that as full an account as possible be given of the work which it is called upon to promote. National in character as in name, the National Institute for the Blind has the support of the public, which recognises the value of work done on broad lines for a class of handicapped people who, with help, are able to do so much to help themselves. With the steady growth of the Institute's work there arose the need for a more detailed explanation of its activities, and for the last three years the annual report has increased in size, and forms a veritable handbook to the position of the blind in modern life. For the National Institute is in the vanguard of all modern thought and initiative with regard to the care of the sightless. Its objects are two: firstly, to promote in every possible way the welfare of the blind from birth to old age; secondly, to co-ordinate national and local work so that the maximum amount of good is secured to the blind population of this country as a whole from all national and local bodies working on their behalf.

Below an attempt is made to touch upon the chief points of the report, which is again conspicuous for its beautiful and apt illustrations.

During the year the Institute's general administration was subjected to a very thorough examination, and, acting on the advice of an expert, certain recommendations directed to the following objects are being brought into effect :—

1. While maintaining the Council's responsibility for directing policy in respect both of working arrangements and raising of revenue, to secure a more systematic delegation of its powers through a reduced number of committees to the executive staff.

2. To improve the procedure of the committees with the same object of delegation.

3. To tighten the control by the Finance Committee both of money-raising and of expenditure, and fully to develop the policy, already initiated by the Council, of framing an annual budget and requiring adherence to it.

4. To overhaul and improve the arrangements for collecting locally in the Provinces.

As stated in the last report, the scheme for the Unification of Collections has been successfully initiated, and agreements, to all of which the National Library for the Blind is a part, have now been made with 67 agencies, whilst negotiations with many others are still in progress. The agreements entered into are, broadly speaking, of two kinds. Under one type of agreement the Institute undertakes the collecting of funds, retains 25 per cent. of the amount collected for national work, and hands over the remaining 75 per cent. to the local agency for local work. Under the other type

of agreement, the local agency undertakes the collecting of funds, retains 80 per cent. of the amount collected for local work, and hands over the remaining 20 per cent. to the Institute for national work.

Considering the Scheme as a whole it is yet too early to say what effect it will have on the annual income of the Institute. Up to March 31st, 1928, the Institute had received from local agencies collecting under agreement the sum of £3,359; but during the year the Institute paid into the common fund of similar local agencies the sum of £2,340 as money raised in the respective local areas during the progress of negotiations—the agreements being ante-dated. It is obvious, therefore, that the scheme needs to be applied throughout the country for several years before judgment of its financial possibilities can be formed. Apart from monetary considerations it is stated that the friendly intercourse and relationship between all agencies for the blind, national or local, has vastly increased as a result of these negotiations.

Individual allocations under percentage agreements in areas where the Institute collects amounted to a total of £17,721; fixed and special grants made by the Institute irrespective of any agreements to £5,246.

Turning to the Departmental Reports it is encouraging to hear of the continued steady output of

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

The largest publishing house for the blind in the world, the National Institute expends the approximate sum of £12,000 per annum on Braille and Moon productions, and each year it adds extensively to the very considerable mass of literature available for the blind. The number of books and periodicals in Braille and Moon type published during the year was as follows :—

Braille Publications—	
Bound volumes	17,838
Books, pamphlets, instruction cards and alphabets ..	10,667
Magazines	209,510
Newspapers	228,612
Braille Book Plates Produced—	
Literature (including magazines and newspapers) ..	22,244
Moon Publications—	
Bound volumes	6,138
Book pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, alphabets, etc.	56,011
Moon Pages of Type Set—	
Literature, including magazines and newspapers ..	7,962

The books produced during the year were selected by the Institute's Publications Committee, with the occasional advice of the distinguished men of letters forming the Literary Consultative Committee. Every suggestion of blind readers receives careful attention, and a constant effort is made to cater for the needs of all. Valuable assistance is received from the National Library for the Blind which is able to form a good estimate of the popular taste of the blind world. As mentioned above, the Library is now a party to all collecting agreements made by the Institute with local agencies. The policy of presenting a number of copies of all the Institute's publications to the Library is therefore discontinued, but the Library is charged only one-third of the actual cost-price of all Braille and Moon books, while, under certain conditions, an additional discount is allowed.

The growing circulation of the embossed periodicals is proof positive of their popularity. The high standard of these publications is fully maintained. The utmost care is given to every feature of the magazines and newspapers, each item being well considered before it is deemed of sufficient importance to be submitted to the blind world. The value of the *Braille Radio Times* has been increased by the inclusion of programmes of the Scottish and Ulster stations, and the complete résumé of all B.B.C. programmes throughout the British Isles is now given. It is interesting to note that, although news by wireless is so greatly appreciated by the blind, the circulation of the *Braille Mail* has not fallen, and this newspaper is so popular that two plates have recently been added without increase of price. *Progress* continues to be a popular organ of the blind world, and in addition the Institute's Braille periodicals are, the *Literary Journal*, *Braille Musical Magazine*, *School Magazine*, *Massage Journal*, and *Channels of Blessing*, whilst Moon type is represented by the *Moon Newspaper* and the *Moon Magazine*. Further, the Institute publishes several embossed journals for private individuals at cost price. The publication of Moon volumes has increased by 43 per cent. during the period under review, while the number of pages of Moon type set shows an increase of 35 per cent.

A new revised edition of the Institute's catalogue of Braille and Moon books with

descriptive notes will shortly be ready for publication. A Braille edition is contemplated in the near future.

BRAILLE MANUSCRIPT BOOKS AND STUDENTS' LIBRARY.

Steady progress is reported from this department, where 770 new Braille volumes for students were prepared during the year. The untiring work of the devoted band of volunteers cannot be too greatly praised. It must be remembered that the work entails much thought and care, for, apart from the general difficulty of putting into Braille books on abstruse subjects, many in foreign tongues, there is in many cases the particular difficulty of "lay-out." The fingers of the blind travel horizontally, therefore, tables of statistics, genealogical tables, charts, etc., perpendicularly arranged in print, have always to be rearranged so that they can be read by fingers travelling across the page. Two volunteers have specialised in the embossing of maps and diagrams. Some 2,000 volumes were circulated during the period under review. Requests for examination papers are received from the Universities and private orders for books are also undertaken.



The Stereotyping Department; all the Stereotypers are Blind.

BRAILLE MUSIC.

The National Institute has now completed sixty years of Braille music publication. Every effort is made to meet the varied demands of blind musicians. The needs of schools have to be considered; of candidates for musical examinations; of organists; of teachers; of performers of every grade of proficiency; and of blind musicians who augment their income by playing at dances, cinemas, etc. And there still remains the vast body of blind people who do not require music for professional or educational purposes, but who find in it a constant solace and source of recreation. During the year, 2,074 music plates were embossed, and 1,074 music volumes, collections of pieces, texts books, etc., and 15,836 music pamphlets were published. A new development of this department is the foundation of a Music Students Library, consisting of specially selected music and books on technical subjects connected with music which, for various reasons, cannot be stereotyped. The books and music in this library are on loan to *bona-fide* students for one month, subject to renewal on application. The new Braille type catalogue, published in various sections, has proved most useful to the blind customer, who can now make his independent choice of available publications. The Annual Carol Booklet still proves its popularity. The text books on the revised Braille music notation have received the approbation of Braille music experts throughout the world. It is of interest to learn that a proposal is on foot to establish, under the ægis of the Institute, a "Society of Friends of Blind Artistes," the objects of which are to watch the interests of blind musicians in every way.

During the year fifty-four recitals and lectures on music were given, in which 14 blind executants participated. These recitals have done much to popularise the National Institute Edition of the works of British blind composers, published for the Institute by Messrs. Ryalls & Jones, Ltd. Free organ recitals have taken place at the Institute's Concert Hall, and a series of dramatic readings by Mrs. Flannery's Private Company added

to the recreations of blind workers during the winter months.

MASSAGE.

The Massage Department, with its Training School, Library and After-Care Section, continues to prosper. During the period under review, nine men and one woman student presented themselves for examination, and all successfully qualified; in addition, one post-graduate student qualified in Medical Gymnastics. The Gardner Trust Scholarships were all awarded during the year. Of the ten students who passed out from the Massage School during the year, seven have started in private practice, two are combining private practice with hospital appointments, and one holds a full-time hospital appointment. Six have been supplied with massage and electrical apparatus for the equipment of clinics. A young South African student, who completed his training at the end of November and returned to South Africa early in December, started a full-time hospital appointment within a few days of his arrival. In addition to the above-mentioned cases, a masseur who has held a full-time hospital appointment has been supplied with massage and electrical equipment to start a private clinic, and a masseuse has been similarly helped.



The Blind Babies at the Sunshine Home love Music and have their own Jazz Band.

Many important works on modern treatment have been added to the Massage Library, all books being lent gratis to present and post-graduate students. Linking up the work of the Massage Department is the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs, whose activities were recently reviewed in these pages.

A matter of professional importance to blind masseurs and masseuses holding the recognised qualifications is the power to employ the title Chartered Masseur or Chartered Masseuse. This was sanctioned by the Privy Council towards the end of 1927.

CHORLEY WOOD COLLEGE.

This has been a successful year at the College. A place has been won at Girton College, Cambridge, in the Scholarship and Entrance Examinations; two School Certificates of the Oxford Local Examinations, with nine "credits" between them, have been awarded; and there have been twelve successes and no failures in the Associated Board's Music Examinations. On completion of the school courses, several pupils have started on interesting careers. Two girls are attending the Institute's Massage School to qualify as trained masseuses; one is a probationer in a hospital; one has begun kennel work; one has returned to Austria, in order to take the government teacher's certificate; and a pupil now at Girton has shown marked literary ability.

At present there are 34 pupils at the College, the new pupils being mainly in the Junior Section. In the school itself the outlook is stated to be most promising. Voluntary enterprises have been begun in connection with the Crafts Guild, Esperanto readings, gardening and poultry-keeping; and the sixth issue of the School Magazine shows remarkable proof of the vigorous mental and physical activities of the pupils.

SUNSHINE HOMES.

Here we find a branch of the Institute's work which, perhaps more than any other, proves how greatly the knowledge of blindness has improved in this era. The importance of giving the right sort of training during the impressionable years of childhood is universally admitted, and at the Sunshine Homes all that is humanly possible is being

done to fit these sightless little ones to take their places in the world at the given time. A joyous account is given of their games and lessons, their shrewd observations and unconscious humour. As far as statistics are concerned, the following table gives full particulars :—

Admissions and discharges for the year ended 31 *March*, 1928 :—

	Chorley Wood	Southport	Leamington	Total
Number in Homes, 31st Mar., 1927	23	29	31	83
Add admissions during year ..	13	12	7 1 re-admission	33
	36	41	39	116
Less discharges ..	17	10	8	35
	19	31	37	81

HOMES AND HOSPITALS.

A busy year is recorded at the Convalescent and Holiday Home at St. Leonards-on-Sea, where 360 guests were admitted during the period under review. Of these 255 were holiday guests, seventeen were residents and 88 convalescents. At no time have there been less than 40 guests in the Home. The Clifton Home for Blind Women continues to maintain its full quota of eleven inmates. At the Brighton Home there are 19 blind inmates, of whom nine are over 70 and three over 80 years of age. A new hostel has been opened in London, at No. 8, Oval Road, Regent's Park, where the plan of allowing the inmates to do their own housekeeping is answering well. The hostel accommodates seven blind girls in their own bed-sitting-rooms, and has been full since its opening. A second hostel run on similar lines has just been opened at No. 9, Oval Road.

AFTER-CARE.

In consequence of regulations issued by the Ministry of Health a number of changes were effected in regard to the administration of relief and other welfare work—changes which were designed to prevent overlapping of activities. The results are now reported to be most satisfactory in every way. There is a willingness on the part of all local societies and agencies for the blind to co-operate with the Institute's After-Care Department, thereby facilitating the investigation of cases, and avoiding undue delays. During the past year 355 new cases were reported to the Department, and were satisfactorily dealt with as between the local organisations and the Institute. Augmentation of wages grants to blind persons amounted to the sum of £6,186 11s. 1d.; grants for higher education to £715; and grants for trade training purposes to £253 4s. 2d. In the matter of trade training fees the demands made upon voluntary resources are stated to be a declining quantity.

During the year a sum of £710 13s. 0d. was expended on the provision of wireless equipment for necessitous blind persons in all parts of the country. Relief grants amounted to £6,786 9s. 10d. Most of these grants have been provided with the knowledge and consent of the local societies for the blind, and, in many cases are administered by these agencies, though the money is provided from the Institute's funds. The Christmas Parcel Fund was a great success, the number of gifts distributed amounting to 736 as against 657 last year.

EX-SERVICE MEN'S FUND.

This Fund, which was initiated some years ago, under the immediate care of the Chairman, Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, has recently increased its activities. When it was established, 35 ex-soldiers came under its care; since then the number has increased to 230. A sum of £2,860 was expended in relief allowances and grants, and in the provision of training and maintenance grants. Assistance is given in various ways which can be summarised as under :—

1. By direct and sole assistance from the Fund.

2. By co-operation with local agencies for the blind in districts where the men reside and are undergoing training. In some instances assistance is also given through branches of the British Legion.

3. By giving additional financial assistance to those who, owing to old age and physical disability, are untrainable and unemployable.

HOME TEACHING SOCIETY.

The transference of the Home Teaching Service which cover London, Essex, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey, Sussex and Kent to appropriate local Societies has combined greater economy of administration with efficiency of service.

There being no longer any need to continue the Society as a separate organisation, it has been wound up, and the responsibility of caring for five blind home teachers who through age and infirmity are no longer able to carry on their duties, has been transferred to the Institute, which also supports two other home teachers by grants of £100 per annum.

COLLEGE AND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS FOR THE BLIND.

The Institute continues to co-operate in the work of this Association by affording office accommodation and clerical assistance free of charge, and by permitting the Assistant Secretary of the Institute to act as Honorary Registrar of the College.

The College conducts examinations for school teachers of the blind and for home teachers, recognised in the former case by the Board of Education, and in the latter by the Ministry of Health. During the year the Institute published, on behalf of the College, the second revised and amplified edition of its Handbook for Home Teachers, as well as a Braille edition of this publication.

THE GREATER LONDON FUND.

On the 1st April, the new agreement, explained in our issue of last June, came into operation. The work of the Fund is touched upon up to March 31, 1928, while still administered by the Institute. As a result of the year's activities, a sum of £25,893 13s. 4d. was allocated to the seven participating societies; a sum of £3,529 1s. 0d. was expended in grants to other societies working for the blind of London; £500 was allocated to the Harry Weedon Memorial Fund; and £50 was expended on Benevolence Allowances. Since the initiation of the Fund in 1921, a total sum of £355,000 has been raised on behalf of the participating Societies for the training and relief of blind people resident in the area covered by the Fund. Appreciation is expressed of the work, and an appeal for the continued support of the Fund.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

The number of persons attached to the Institute's Home Industries Scheme, which operates in London south of the Thames and the adjacent counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire is now 203, the chief trades practised being mat-making, basket-making, brush-making, hand and machine-knitting, and pianoforte-tuning. Home-workers' earnings during the year amounted to £7,400. Grants made by the county and county boroughs' council on whose behalf the Institute is operating the Scheme, enabled them to receive a sum amounting to £3,068 as an addition to their earnings.

In bare figures the help rendered by the Institute during the past year is as follows:—

Provision of equipment ..	£430
Gifts of material to necessitous cases	£181
Purchase of goods from home workers	£[illegible],208
Purchase of goods from blind workers in institutions ..	£2,794

During the period under review the Institute's sales brought in the sum of £9,674. The Institute keeps in constant personal touch with every home worker, and a high standard of work is maintained.

RESEARCH.

1. Placement Work.

Preliminary investigations with regard to the placement of blind workers in world industries amongst sighted workers were reported last year, as was the formation of an Appointments Board. The work is considered highly important and the results to date were announced at a meeting of the Board held in June. We refer readers to the full report in the August issue of the Beacon, reminding them of the fact that in the research work undertaken in conjunction with the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, possible new sources of work have been divided into the following three groups:—

(1) Suitable processes in factories employing sighted labour.

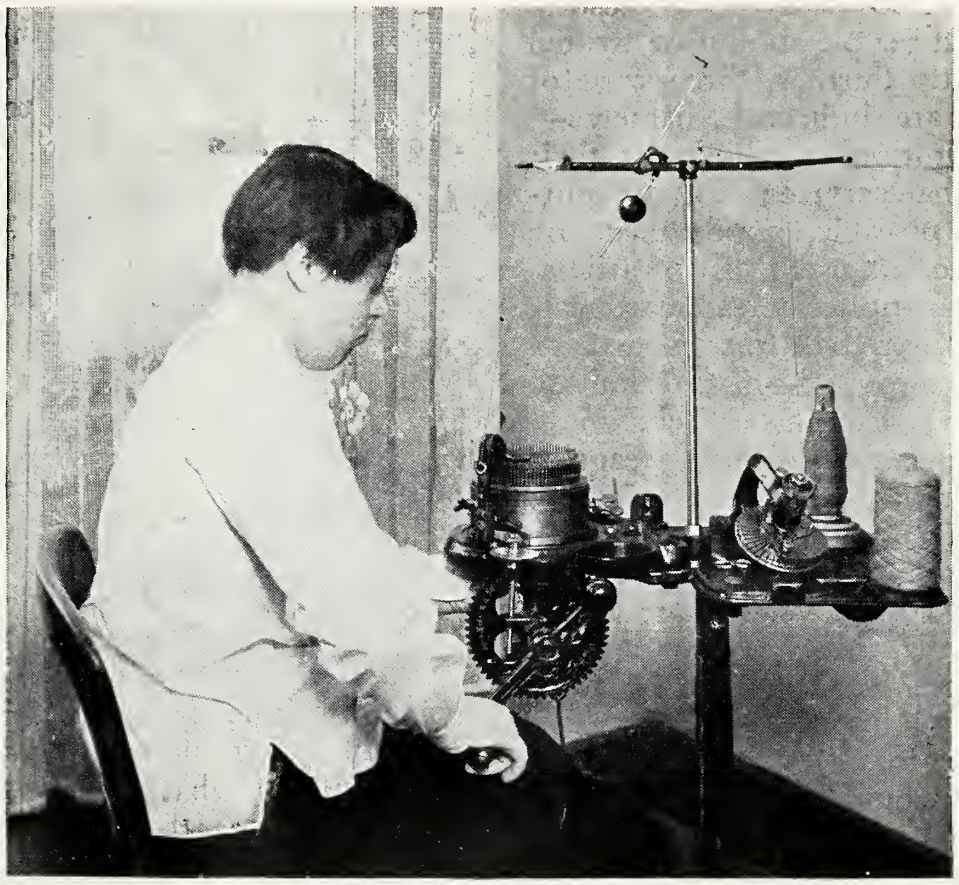
(2) The development of new industries in, or in connection with, existing workshops for the blind, to be carried on under conditions of manufacture and sale similar to those at present in vogue.

(3) The development of new industries on a sub-contracting basis, arrangements being made with some commercial firm for the manufacture under contract of some necessary article by processes carried on in workshops run mainly by blind labour.

In addition to Research work, the Placement Committee have been collecting data from all over the world dealing with the question of the employment of the blind.

2. Apparatus, Games, etc.

The work of improving existing apparatus for the blind has been maintained. During the year attention has been devoted to the new pneumatically-operated stereotyping machines, which have taken the place of those operated by the feet. Whilst the output of the new machine is as high as that of the old one, a larger degree of comfort has been obtained for the operator. An instruction pamphlet, including embossed diagrams, has been prepared for the use of blind operators of the automatic telephone. The Stainsby-Wayne Braille shorthand machine has been reduced in size, weight and cost. New games have been added to the catalogue and a series of embossed maps produced.



The Blind Home Worker.

WIRELESS.

With the help of the local agencies, 988 wireless sets and 1,261 pairs of headphones were distributed to blind listeners-in, and as a result of the appeals made during 1926 and 1927 a further 39 sets and 30 headphones were received. It is the opinion of the Institute that the provision of all wireless facilities should eventually become one of the most necessary and useful of all national services for the blind, and it is hoped to develop this service considerably in the future.

BLIND EMPLOYEES.

Continuing its practice of itself employing blind people in numerous branches of its work, we read that 165 were thus employed on the 31st March, 1928, a sum of £37,130 having been paid in salaries, wages, allowances, etc., during the period under review. An excellent idea is given of the varied work apportioned to the blind :—

"On one and the same afternoon may be found the blind principal of the Massage School instructing his blind pupils ; the Institute's blind organist giving an organ recital to prelude a meeting which a blind organizer has called together, which a blind orator will address, while a blind shorthand-writer takes notes ; the blind head of the After-Care Department personally enquiring into cases of distress ; the blind foreman of the music stereotyping department handing out music proofs for correction by blind proof-readers ; the blind stereotyper busy producing every type of book and periodical ; the blind collator sorting out and arranging the piles of sheets from the presses; the blind telephonist managing single-handed four lines and fifty extensions. This list might be extended, but enough has been said to prove that the Institute endeavours to provide the blind with every type of interesting work possible."

PROPAGANDA.

In order to supply the Press and individuals with every possible information, there is an Information Bureau which collects and records data. Emphasis is laid on the importance of judicious propaganda work ; the Report says :—

"We do not refer here directly to those necessary adjuncts to every call upon the public for their money—advertising and publicity—although, of course, all advertising and publicity should be the foremost means of propaganda available. But we refer, in this first instance, to the more subtle type of propaganda which may be less visible but more living, which is dependent on the depth of an understanding rather than the depth of a purse. We have

always sought to bring into the dark world of the blind hosts and hosts—ever increasing hosts—of true friends, friends who will not shed tears as they come into that strange world, but who will bring into it the light of their own cheerful souls,—men and women who will ask a blind man what he thinks of the Test Team, or ask a blind girl if she has seen the latest play. In other words, perhaps the primary aim of the whole of the Institute's work is to bring men and women with sight into contact with men and women without sight, and to prove to each group that, though one is heavily handicapped, neither group is a whit less normal than the other."

Included in the Report is an interesting article on how blind people should be treated by those with sight. Further, three ways of helping the blind are indicated, namely :— by supporting institutions working for their welfare ; by personal service ; and by purchasing, whenever possible, goods made by and for blind people. A useful list of articles purchasable at the Institute's Headquarters is appended. These may be broadly divided into the following groups :—mats ; knitted and woven articles ; brooms and brushes ; baskets, hampers and trays ; cane, seagrass and rush chairs ; whilst articles made for the use of the blind may be divided into books and periodicals ; appliances and apparatus invented with the sole object of relieving blindness ; specially adapted games and puzzles. The price of everything sold by the Institute is reduced to its minimum, there being, in many cases, a direct loss on everything sold.

In conclusion we would remind our readers that visitors to the Institute are always welcome. We believe that they will find there much of interest, for from this brief account it will be seen how wide are the activities in progress to secure for all sections of the blind community that happiness which comes from a spirit of independence.

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to the 12th of September, 1928, 1308 wireless sets and 1618 pairs of Headphones have been distributed among the blind, the Local Associations acting as distributing centres. Readers should note that all wireless sets sent out by the National Institute for the Blind remain the property of the Institute. When sets are no longer required by their users they should be returned to the Institute.

NATIONAL PIANO PLAYING CONTEST

IN announcing the closing date of entry for this great contest (Sept. 25th) the *Daily Express* commented as follows :—

" Pianists in all parts of the country have " responded in their thousands, and it is " hoped that many promising players will " be discovered . . . A surprising feature " of the entry list is that it contains the " names of no fewer than 150 blind pianists."

Soon after the original announcement of the contest, the *Daily Express*, together with the various publishers of the ink-print copies of the ten selected test pieces, very generously acceded to the request of the National Institute to grant them permission to transcribe all the pieces into Braille and to publish them in this special form for the use of blind competitors.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that three weeks after this permission was obtained, the National Institute had transcribed and published all the ten pieces, thus enabling the blind to enter the lists with a minimum of delay. As a record of quick production this was surely a noteworthy feat, expecially as one or two of the pieces presented some rather knotty problems of Braille transcription for solution.

The result of the contest will be decided in London on December 1st. We hope the blind will justify our faith in their powers. By securing one or more of the 72 principal prizes they would indeed publicly demonstrate the truth of what we have constantly claimed for them, *e.g.*, that they can hold their own with the seeing in the sphere of Music—that one Art in which the sightless can exercise to the full their æsthetic sense and spiritual power.

E. W.

BLIND BOY MUSICIAN

A BLIND boy of 17, who, in addition to being the composer of more than 150 musical works, can play any tune after he has heard it once, made a successful appearance at two Brighton cinemas last month. His name is Alec Templeman, and he is now making his first public tour. He first showed an interest in the piano when he was not yet two years old. At the age of four he had composed his first tune, and by the time he was seven he could play classical music. A year ago he obtained his L.R.A.M.

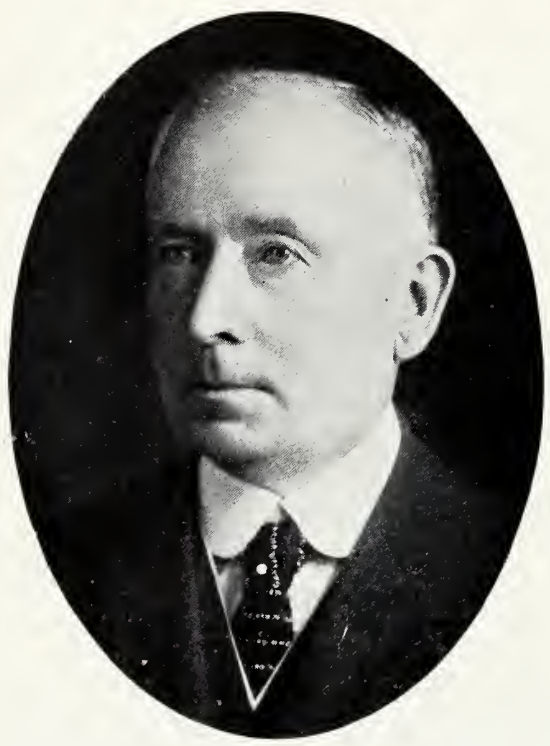
PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

Mr. J. J. BURTON, J.P.



THE subject of this month's biography, Mr. J. J. Burton, J.P., of Nunthorpe, has taken a very keen interest in work for the benefit of the blind during the last 30 years, and it is mostly due to his persistent efforts that the efficient organisation now looking after the welfare of the blind (numbering about 700) in the Cleveland and South Durham area, has come into being. In his boyhood he became deeply interested in a retired blind gentleman, who lived near his native village, marvelling greatly at the way in which a blind man walked unerringly up and down the village street and along country footpaths; and often pondering over the quaint way in which "blind John" described his passing experiences, such as "I *see* the gate is open to-night" or "I *see* the road is blocked." The trained blind and the excellent choir from the Wilberforce School for the Blind at York, who often visited the villages in the neighbourhood and gave exhibitions and concerts, further roused his youthful sympathy and admiration. But it was not until 1898, at the ripe age of 50 years, that in the midst of exacting business claims an opportunity occurred of associating himself actively with the work for the blind. An accident at the Works some time previously injured some of the workmen and one of them was blinded for life. This was the more distressing as the blinded man had completed his own job and out of good nature was voluntarily assisting his mates for the advantage of the firm. He was sent to York Institution to be trained, and, as might be expected, he developed into an excellent craftsman. It was difficult for him to carry on his new occupation in his own home, and after a time a small workshop was rented where he and three other trained blind workmen were installed under sighted supervision. From that time onward Mr. Burton never ceased his efforts to make the lot of the blind easier, and it is almost entirely to his untiring work that the new Cleveland and South Durham Institute for the Blind, opened by Sir Kingsley Wood, M.P., on November 2nd, 1926, owes its existence. Here men and women are employed and it will receive those in training until its accommodation for 100 workers and 20 trainees is fully occupied.



Mr. J. J. Burton, J.P.

There was considerable public agitation at the beginning of this century for more concentrated and co-ordinated support of the blind than could be secured by the many isolated voluntary institutions established up and down the country, each working according to the exigencies of its financial position, and in 1913 a strong Special Committee was got together under the presidency of Mr. Wilson, of the Gardner's Trust, for the purpose of considering the Technical Education and Employment of the Blind. The Committee included, amongst others, Dr. P. M. Evans, the late Mr. Stainsby, The Right Hon. Lord Lamington, Sir Edward O'Malley, Dr. Ranger and Sir Ellis Cunliffe. Mr. Burton had a seat on the Committee, and contributed his share to the discussions and subsequent recommendations. The final outcome of the Committee's labours was the preparation of a Blind Persons Bill which aroused the attention of the Government to the importance of dealing with the subject, and they appointed a Departmental Committee, under the presidency of The Right Hon. W. Hayes Fisher, M.P., to consider the whole subject of the welfare of the blind. Mr. Burton was one of those who supplied much data for the very

voluminous and important report which was prepared and issued in July, 1917, and which had its final outcome in the Blind Persons (1920) Act.

In the meantime the Local Government Board appointed a Central Advisory Committee, and local Advisory Committees were appointed in the Counties. On that connected with the Northern Counties Mr. Burton took an active part during the whole time of its existence.

In the long-continued agitation on the subject of the Centralisation of Collections, now so happily settled with the National Institute for the Blind, he found time in the midst of other pressing business to attend conferences in London and the provinces, and contributed his quota to the solution of a very difficult and pressing problem. He is an old member of the Executive of the Northern Counties Association and he has also been for some years a member of the Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister of Health under the Blind Persons Act. Locally he undertook the duty of Hon. Secretary to the Middlesbro' Workshops in 1902, and on the death of the Hon. Treasurer he undertook this additional duty. The purchase and equipment of buildings to provide working accommodation for 24 blind persons, as against the original four, when there was not in hand one penny of capital, was a rather serious undertaking, but thanks to the worthiness of the cause and the generosity of employers and the public generally the sum of £1,770 was raised as the result of a special appeal; and the workmen employed in the local works nobly agreed to make a weekly contribution through the firm's wages books, for the purpose of a fund for present maintenance and future extensions.

The increased responsibility arising under the provisions of the Blind Persons Act was shouldered for an enlarged area, and it became necessary to build a new and much bigger workshop. The workshop has been provided, but a considerable debt remains on the building, and this Mr. Burton is anxious to see liquidated before advancing age compels him to relinquish his responsibility. As soon as the severe depression in the Iron and Steel Industry has passed he purposes making a strong effort to clear off the remaining debt.

He is a Fellow of the Geographical Society, and a member of many Societies connected with Science, Art and Literature, a Justice of the Peace for the North Riding, Chairman of the Stokesley Board of Guardians, Chairman of the Mines Advisory Committee under the Metalliferous Mines Act, Vice-President of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, and Past-President of the Cleveland Ironmasters Association and of the Middlesbro' Chamber of Commerce.

During the war he devoted much time to the solution of difficulties of supply and transport of raw and finished material in the Iron and Steel Industry, and to the settlement of constantly recurring claims for adjustment of wages and conditions of work. He was a member under the Ministry of Munitions of the North East Coast Pig Iron Control Committee, Chairman of the North East Coast Imported Ore Committee and representative on the Central Committee, Chairman of the Home Mineral Control Committee and spokesman for the Pig Iron Industry in the many arbitrations and conferences rendered necessary as the result of changes brought about by post-war conditions. He has had no mean share in preserving unbroken the happy relations between capital and labour in the Pig Iron Industry which have become traditional.

Mr. Burton is now on the point of completing 80 years of an active life, but continues his interest not only in the work for the Blind but in many other objects which have claimed his sympathy in earlier years.

THE New York Association for the Blind holds annually a meeting of all the blind newsdealers in New York. Legislation for the protection of blind newsdealers is being sought and the meeting at the Lighthouse in March of this year was attended by Mayor Walker and other prominent New York officials—who pledged themselves to support this legislation.

AFTER colliding with a road barrier, a motorist skidded and crashed into the showroom windows of the National Institute for the Blind in Great Portland Street, London. The damage was speedily repaired.

THE ESPERANTO CONGRESS AT ANTWERP



THIS year at Antwerp, from the 3rd to the 11th of August, just upon fifteen hundred people coming from forty countries and speaking as many native languages met at the twentieth international Esperanto Congress. Together they attended meetings to discuss and sometimes to settle the affairs of Esperanto-land; listen to lectures on the science and history of navigation; they took part in divine worship—Protestant, Catholic, or Jewish, according to their creed; enjoyed concerts, a dance, and a dinner, and applauded a magnificent performance of "Hamlet," using all the time and for all purposes the one language, Esperanto.

The assembly, too, has its intimate side, for the Congress badge is an introduction in itself, while those who have been to former Congresses constantly make their friends known to one another. Little groups, each of persons of diverse nationalities, but all in lively conversation, are seen in the streets, sitting in the cafés, or viewing the sights of the town. Those whose interests lie in the same direction, medical men, engineers, teachers, stamp collectors, etc., form international societies and meet more or less formally to interchange ideas and experiences.

This year the Blind Section met for the seventh time, its forty members, some seven or eight seeing friends included, being drawn from four lands, the British Isles, Germany, Belgium, and Hungary, whence came Miss Molnar, travelling all by herself. Ireland was represented for the first time by Mr. Neary. The lack of a blind institution in Antwerp and the high cost of the journey had deterred many of our fervent Esperantist friends from more distant countries from coming. However, free quarters for those who wished for them were provided in two orphanages, one for men and one for ladies, where the visitors were made quite comfortable.

Besides taking part at will in all the functions of the main Congress, we held four meetings of our own, at which, especially at the first, many seeing Esperantists were present, from whom we elected Dr. Felix Zamenhof, brother of the inventor of Esperanto, to be our Hon. President. Our seeing friends, I think, were much impressed by the fluency with which our members discussed the matters in which they were interested. Our Chairman was Mr. Joseph Kreitz (Germany) and our secretary, Mr. Victor Hendricx (Belgium). Unfortunately I was not able to take detailed notes, and I have not yet seen the secretary's report, but I gained the definite impression that the treatment of the blind is still very unequal in different countries, and that a wider knowledge of the capacities of the blind and of means by which these are developed would be very useful to all interested in their welfare. There is at present severe distress among the blind of Bulgaria, owing to the recent disastrous earthquake and to the nation's heavy war debt, which absorbs all the money formerly devoted to charity. In Spain, outdoor relief, it was stated, is no longer to be given to the blind, and those who cannot maintain themselves must go into institutions, so we passed resolutions calling the attention of appropriate authorities to these matters. Mr. A. J. Cohen recounted some of his experiences in Poland and elsewhere, where he has recently been travelling with the object of inducing the authorities to take up massage seriously as an occupation for suitable blind persons. In some countries, he said, masseurs received only three months' training, which left them socially and professionally quite unfit for the work. The suggestion that every effort should be made to induce educational authorities to have Esperanto taught in all blind schools was loudly applauded. Finally, Miss Molnar cordially invited us to meet next year in Buda-Pest, where there is a famous blind institution with many keen Esperantists among its teachers and pupils.

But should any one ask me who I thought did most to advance the cause of the blind in public estimation at this Congress, I should say at once: Miss Holden with her band of eager, merry young sightseers from Bradford, whose courtesy and obvious enjoyment were the finest examples of the value of a liberal education to the blind.

W. Percy Merrick.

MR. J. JOHNSTON, a blind wrestler of Stamfordham, Northumberland, met Mr. Douglas Clarke in the fifth round of a heavy-weight wrestling championship at Grasmere, Westmorland, last month. Mr. Clarke won the championship for the second year.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

APPROVAL has been given by the Public Health Committee of Aberdeen Town Council to a scheme for the provision of additional workshop accommodation by the Aberdeen Asylum for the Blind. The directors of the Asylum propose to convert the building on the west side of Crimon Place, formerly used as a rope works, into workshops for the blind, at an estimated cost of £4,000.

* * *

Sunderland & Durham Royal Institute

THIS Institute has had a successful year, which finished with a balance to credit of £1,597.

The sales produced £10,841, as compared with £7,213 in the preceding year.

The wages paid to blind workers during the year which ended on March 31st last, totalled £2,096, as compared with £1,756 in the previous year.

* * *

Stourbridge Institution for the Blind.

AT the annual meeting of Stourbridge Institution for the Blind, it was reported that last year's trading resulted in a loss of £311.

During the last 12 months subscriptions amounted to £91, and £205 was received from the funds of the Joint Committee of Midland Societies. Under arrangements made with Wolverhampton for amounts collected in the Staffordshire area £77 were received, the direct works contributions being £85. The customary grants were made by Worcestershire and Staffordshire County Councils and Worcester City Council, the Government grant being £154.

The number of blind persons on the register was 34, including nine workshop employees, to whom £334 was paid in augmentation of wages, while £58 was distributed among the unemployable blind. Sales amounted to nearly £1,200.

* * *

IT was decided at a meeting of the employees of the *North-Eastern Daily Gazette*, Middlesbrough, to subscribe a sum of one halfpenny per week each to the Cleveland and South Durham Institute for the Blind.

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Institution for the Blind.

IN reviewing the 69th year's work of this Institution, the Committee report the growing support of the public, and the consequent increase of benefits supplied to the blind. The various services undertaken by the Institution were continued during the period under review. Eighty-seven cases were cared for, the total register for the City containing 341 names and that for the County 382 names. Seven cases were admitted for industrial training, and eight people who had completed their training, were given regular employment in the workshops, one being supplied with equipment for home work. Maintenance grants to pupils amounted to £1,618 and augmentation of blind workers' earnings to £2,483. The workers were kept fully employed in all departments.

Classes in educational subjects were well attended, good progress being reported. An additional home teacher was appointed for the home County areas, the total number of home teachers being four, two for the City and two for the Counties. Care of the unemployable blind was stated to be the Committee's biggest and most difficult task. Weekly grants were distributed, as well as orders for coal, groceries and clothing to the value of approximately £1,000. A large number of wireless sets were installed, and 207 certificates for free wireless licences issued. One hundred new volumes were added to the Library.

Following precedent, the report is fully illustrated by photos of typical cases dealt with by the Institution, these being as usual, of an interesting nature.

* * *

ON September 21st, a day before the last brick was to have been laid, the new church of St. Jude's, Thornton Heath, was badly damaged by fire. Workmen engaged in the finishing touches assisted in the efforts to quell the flames. The Church had cost £13,000 to build, and represented years of work on the part of the Rev. G. F. Whittleton, who is blind, and of his parishioners. It was to hold 500 people and was to have been consecrated on October 27th, by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

CHORLEY WOOD COLLEGE

BY A "COLLEGE" GIRL



IT will be long before I forget my first journey to Chorley Wood. Crossing the border was in itself an event, and besides that there was a long hoped-for visit to London. Boarding-school and Braille methods were alike new to me, and although I had many conjectures, I did not know in the least what to expect.

It was a thrilling moment for me, when in January, 1921, just in time for the school's first birthday, I crossed the threshold of Chorley Wood College. I was welcomed by the Principal, Miss Monk, and had an opportunity of seeing the house and grounds before the rest of the school arrived. It was a pleasure to find that they were true to the description given in the school prospectus. The house had been a mansion and all the rooms were large and light and airy. Upstairs the dormitories and bedrooms were prettily furnished, each having its own colour scheme, while downstairs the rooms had been utilised to their best advantage as library, class rooms, dining-room or hall. It was however, the grounds which particularly took my fancy. Even in January they were beautiful with their long stretches of lawn, shrubberies and magnificent cedar trees. Both house and grounds gave a sense of spaciousness and freedom, and were an ideal setting for any school. With the arrival of the school proper, the rest of my first day's impressions were confused. I seemed to be in the midst of a crowd of laughing, talking girls of all ages and sizes, each clad in the attractive school uniform of a tunic of brown hand-woven cloth trimmed with orange braid and worn with a tussore blouse. One thing was clear however, and that was that everybody was very friendly and anxious to help and did everything in their power to make me feel at home.



THE GIRLS OF CHORLEY WOOD COLLEGE OFF TO PLAY "SPORT X."

The very next day work began in earnest. As I was rather over the ordinary school age it had been arranged that I should be there as a student. My first object was to learn Braille, then handwork, and be out of doors as much as possible, while in the time remaining I was to devote myself to such studies as English Literature, French and History. Braille was slow work at first and I found much more diversion in the hand-work room. This was a most fascinating place with its looms and its spinning wheels and its brightly coloured raffias. Here all sorts of raffia and cane baskets were made and the tweed was woven for school tunics. Most fascinating of all, however, was the potter's wheel, and it was indeed a triumph, when, after many trials and failures and much teaching, a tiny and very ordinary pot rewarded my efforts. For out-door work there was poultry and gardening, the latter being especially interesting, as at that time the school garden was in the making and it involved much planning and some good hard digging and turfing. It was a fine healthy life with gym., dancing, and long walks over the Common, but added to this was a wonderful new game invented by Miss Monk called Sport-X. "X" was the unknown quantity and really consisted of a mixture of foot-ball, net-ball and rounders. The game has been much developed since, and now there have been a number of matches played with other schools.

As Braille became easier to me I gradually

grew interested in the more academic side of the work. Higher education is the real object of the school, and it was easy to find pleasure and interest in the Literature and other classes. At first the idea of attaining to University standard seemed an impossible dream, but it was a dream which Miss Monk encouraged, and at last, owing largely to the efficient coaching and sympathetic help given by Miss Monk and her Staff, the dream at last became reality.

It was always interesting for me to compare Chorley Wood College with an ordinary High School which I had previously attended. The fact, of course, that Chorley Wood College is a boarding-school and a small one at that, gives a chance for intimacy and good feeling between the staff and girls not always possible in a large day school. The difference otherwise was remarkably small. In work Braille methods were substituted, and though slower in some cases, ultimately met with just as much success. The want of sight is ignored as much as possible, and the life of an ordinary school is carried on in spite of any difficulties that might result from it. Music is especially good and there is a flourishing Choral and Dramatic Society. Much interest is taken in games and matches, and there is a movement called the Crafts Guild which corresponds in some measure to the Girl Guides. Original work is very much encouraged, and in all things the result of this is shown, especially, I think, in the entertainments which are frequently given by the pupils themselves.

Going back to Chorley Wood College in the long vacation is always a pleasure. There have been changes in staff and girls since I went there first, but the spirit remains the same. The senior people in the school who were with me have nearly all gone, but we always look forward to a re-union, when we talk over our different vocations and experiences. Massage, music, handwork and our different Universities all have their share in our lively discussions. As the school has grown much larger it has become more of a school and not so much like a large family. Exams. which used to be rare events in the early days have now become an everyday occurrence, and there is always someone being coached for a School Certificate or some such test. The little ones who spent much of their time playing with dolls in my early days are now well up in the school, and their place has been taken by other little ones over whom they exercise a sisterly care. New girls are always welcomed at Chorley Wood College, and it is particularly interesting to meet students of English there from other schools and Universities on the Continent.

I know that every pupil of Chorley Wood College, past and present, will join me in acknowledging the debt we owe to it and to the inspiration and practical help of its teachers. For those of us who have left it has opened up hitherto undreamt-of possibilities. For those who are still there it is providing a splendid education, a happy school life and a training in independence and self-reliance which will be of inestimable value in the future. Here's to the good health and long life of Chorley Wood College and everyone connected with it!

ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE

WE have received the following list of successes by pupils during the months of August and September :—

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC—LICENTIATE DIPLOMA—*Piano*—Vera Riley.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.—ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA—

Public Singing—Dorothy Allen, Muriel Berry.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC—

ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA—Jack Wood.

LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC—

ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA—Ronald Lambourne, John Wroe.

ASSOCIATED BOARD—SCHOOLS' EXAMINATION.

Lower Division—Edwin Bickmore, Alfred Heckman, Edward Rogers.

Higher Division—Kathleen Hall (Honourable mention), Lilian Smith.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATION BOARD—SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

Ellen Gurnell (Credit in all subjects).

THE Annual Exhibition of Basketwork by the Basketmakers Company was held at the Mansion House on the 11th and 12th September. It was a fine show, the Egyptian Hall setting off the exhibits to the greatest advantage. A number of the leading manufacturers in London and the provinces were represented, and considerable space was given to the London Association for the Blind and to the London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind. Basketmaking in every variety had been turned out by blind workers, and, says the "City Press," "compared favourably with the productions of those who have the full use of their sight."

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

BOOT REPAIRING—II



N the previous article the re-heeling of boots and shoes was dealt with, this being one of the simplest operations in boot repairing, and, therefore, one that should be mastered by the beginner before attempting re-soling—or rather half-soling, as it is termed—which will now be described.

We shall confine ourselves to riveting, or nailing on of soles, the sewing on of a sole being too advanced a process to be included here. In cases where the sole of a boot or shoe which has not previously been repaired is worn thin, clumping (*i.e.*, nailing a new sole on top of the worn one) is resorted to ; but, if the sole of a boot that has not previously been repaired is worn so much that its removal is necessary, the job had better not be attempted by the beginner.

We will, therefore, confine ourselves to two classes of soling, namely, clumping, and putting on a new sole to a boot that has been re-soled previously by riveting.

Taking the latter first, the old sole is first carefully removed with a screwdriver or blunt chisel and the pincers in the same way as the top lift of heel was removed, any remaining nails being drawn out with the pincers. This is much more safely and easily done if the boot is first wetted, but in any case great care must be taken when pulling off the sole to make sure that the under leather or welt is not pulled away as well. The operation is best performed with the boot on a last. The piece of leather for the new sole is now cut to shape, leaving a margin for trimming. As will already have been noted in the case of the old sole, the end opposite the toe is cut off in a straight line, this coming at the waist of the boot. This straight edge is now bevelled by skiving or paring with the knife, the paring being done on the reverse or flesh side of the leather. Soak the leather as before, and, after allowing it to drain for a time, lay it flesh side upwards on a hard flat surface, and hammer gently, as was done in the case of the heel leather.

The sole can now be attached to the boot with a few rivets to hold it temporarily, and the edges pared more nearly to size, after which an indented line is made with a sharp-pointed awl round the sole about one-third of an inch from the edge. Hold the awl between fore-finger and thumb as you would a pencil, and let the second finger press against the edge of the sole to serve as a guide. Riveting can now be proceeded with, using rivets just long enough to go through to last, and spacing them about one-quarter of an inch apart. The finishing process is given below.

CLUMPING.—This method is resorted to in the case of boots and shoes still in fairly good condition ; indeed, boots and shoes are often clumped, particularly in winter time after only a few weeks' wear. First of all, place the boot on the last and rasp the sole level. This is necessary because one side is usually worn more than another. Cut out or procure ready cut the two soles, noting that in cutting out a pair of soles one pattern only is needed, this being reversed for the second sole. Prepare the leather in the same way as before, paring the waist end off to half its thickness, and, with one of the boots on the last, place the sole piece in position and secure with a few rivets as before. Then trim round the edges, mark the line with pointed awl, and drive in the rivets. The best tool for this purpose is an old flat file, completing the driving in operation with the hammer.

FINISHING.—For a rough-and-ready job the edges can be finished as previously described for the heel, simply with black stain, Indian or shoemakers' ink, and ordinary blacking. But a much better finish is obtained by adopting a more professional method as follows : Holding the rasp in the right hand, place it flat against the edge, and force towards toe, at the same time exerting a downward pressure so as to close up any gaps left between the new sole and the old. Having done this all round, scrape the edge with a steel scraper or piece of broken glass to remove the rasp marks, damping the leather before doing so ; and then complete the smoothing with fine glasspaper. Now give the edge a good coating of stain or shoemakers' ink, and place

on one side till nearly dry. The glazing iron is then placed on the gas or fire, and when moderately hot rubbed with a brisk backward and forward movement round the edge. The heelball is now warmed slightly and rubbed round the edge, and the hot iron again used to work the paste deposited from the heelball well into all crevices and secure a smooth and glossy finish. The smoothing is completed by wrapping a piece of cloth round the right thumb and rubbing briskly round the edge, so as to create heat and effectually smooth out any irregularities left by the heelball.

In addition to leather, soles and heels of rubber and gutta percha are frequently used as well as revolving rubber heels, iron toe and heel plates, Blakie's protectors and the like. The fixing of any of the foregoing can be accomplished without much difficulty, but patching uppers of boots or shoes is work which the reader is not recommended to undertake, involving as it does the difficult and precise operation of sewing or stitching.

A. G. K.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

CLASSICS.

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
Cicero.	Pro Marcello (Ed. by W. Y. Faussett)	2

ECONOMICS.

Lindsay, A. D.	Karl Marx's Capital	2

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Dryden, J.	Essay on Satire	2
Scott, W. Dixon.	Men of Letters	4
Wardale, E. E.	Old English Grammar	3

ESSAYS AND BELLES LETTRES.

Mitford, M. R.	Our Village	4

MISCELLANEOUS.

Gardiner, A. C.	Certain People of Importance	4
Russell, G. W. E.	Prime Ministers and Some Others	3

MODERN LANGUAGES.

Sauer, C. M.	Key to Italian Grammar	1
Van Bever, A., and Leautaud, P.	Poètes d'Aujourd'hui (Morceaux choisis)	2

POETRY AND DRAMA.

Dekker, T.	Plays	7
Skelton, Campion, Marvell and Donne.	Selected Poems	1

POLITICAL SCIENCE.

Machiavelli, N.	The Prince (Trans.)	1

PSYCHOLOGY.

Martin, E. D.	Psychology	5
Murray, E. R., and Brown-Smith, H.	The Child under Eight	3

SCIENCE.

Holmes, A.	The Age of the Earth	1
Macbride, E. W.	Evolution	1

NEWS ITEMS

A SALTBURN schoolgirl has promised to subscribe one penny per week for the rest of her life to the Cleveland and South Durham Institute for the Blind. A subscription of 5s. sent in advance has cleared her account for over a year.

* * *

CHARLES WORSDALE, a blind basket-maker, was awarded prizes for the best cultivated garden beetroot, cauliflowers, apples, parsnips and cabbages, at the Great Dalby Flower-Show, near Melton Mowbray. He cultivates his garden unaided.

* * *

TO commemorate the 101st anniversary of the death of William Blake, blind girls from the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, recited some of his poems over his grave in Bunhill Fields, City Road, E.C. They also sang songs, including " Jerusalem."

* * *

ANOTHER X-ray victim has died in the person of Dr. Fernand Dueretet. Dr. Dueretet, who was 59 years of age, was blind and badly scarred about the hands and arms. He had, however, until recently continued to give valuable advice in matters concerning the X-ray.

* * *

SIXTEEN of the sixty blind students at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind made a scholastic average of at least ninety per cent., with no grade less than eighty per cent. Keen interest is evident in English work in this school, as two more boys have had poems and articles accepted and paid for by national magazines.

* * *

A STATE convention of the blind was held at Salt Lake City, Utah, April 7, with an attendance of ninety. Committees were appointed to effect a merger of all associations in the state into one organization with the Utah Association as a nucleus, and to report on the advisability of introducing a relief law into the next session of the legislature. The Utah Association for the Blind has voted to publish a quarterly bulletin in ink print to keep the isolated blind of the state informed on all matters of interest to them.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND

MINISTRY OF HEALTH REPORT



SECTION of the Ninth Annual Report of the Ministry of Health is devoted to the subject of the welfare of the blind. The Ministry reports further progress in the application of the Blind Persons Act, 1920. In accordance with Section I. of the Act, there were, on March 31st, 1928, 16,264 blind persons in England and Wales between the ages of 50 and 70 in receipt of Old Age Pensions on account of blindness as compared with 14,563 on the same date last year.

Under Section II. of the Act, schemes for promoting the welfare of the blind are in operation in the areas of 146 local authorities. The Report states that in a number of areas arrangements are being, or have been, made by the local authorities, either alone or in collaboration with voluntary agencies, to bring the income of each unemployable blind person up to a definite amount, but there is a considerable variety of practice in these areas.

During the year a sum of £120,550 has been distributed by the Department among voluntary agencies and local authorities in respect of the grant-earning services for the blind performed by them. The sum of £112,510 was distributed in this way last year. Nearly all the services show progressive increases since the introduction of the grants from the departments, indicating that additional persons are steadily being brought within the scope of these services. As regards the grant for home teaching, the following figures testify to the increased importance attaching to this branch of work. In 1922-23 the grant was £14,753; in 1923-24, £16,667; in 1924-25, £19,034; in 1925-26, £20,630; in 1926-27, £23,209, and in the period under review, £24,895. There are now 390 home teachers in respect of whom the department is paying grant as compared with 100 home teachers in 1919, the year in which State assistance was first given for this service.

On March 31, 1927, there were 46,822 registered blind persons in England and Wales. From the statistics given it is shown that 29,190 are 50 years of age or over, and that the number of unemployable blind persons is 31,667, consisting mainly of those who are incapable of work on account of their age. The fact that there was a decrease of 177 in the number of blind persons under 21 in 1927 as compared with 1925, seems to indicate the success of the measures in operation for the prevention of infantile blindness.

At the instance of the Ministry of Health, the Health Section of the League of Nations is now conducting an inquiry into the work which is being done for the welfare of the blind in a large number of countries.

The Inspectors for the welfare of the blind have throughout the year continued the systematic inspection of voluntary agencies earning grant, and have conferred with a number of Local Authorities in regard to their schemes under the Blind Persons Act, 1920. The recommendations contained in their reports have been followed by appropriate action by the Department. In addition to this work, the Inspectors are constantly helping the voluntary agencies by advice and encouragement.

The Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind were re-appointed in December, 1927, under the Chairmanship of the late Right Hon. G. H. Roberts. They have met frequently during the year and the Seventh Report of the Committee, covering their proceedings up to November, 1927, was issued and placed on sale by H.M. Stationery Office (price 6d. net) during the year. They also issued a useful Handbook on the Welfare of the Blind which was published during the year by H.M. Stationery Office (price 6d. net).

AS we go to Press we learn that a serious fire broke out at Sunshine House, Chorley Wood, on Sunday afternoon, the 30th September. The inside of the house, to all intents and purposes, was destroyed, but it was possible to save the new schoolroom. Thanks to the admirable work of the staff all the babies were got away without injury and there was no panic. They are safely housed at Chorley Wood College.

BRAILLE BOOKS—continued.

7824-7829 "The Monastery," by Sir Walter Scott, Bart. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 6 vols. .. .. per vol. 8 9

7835-7840 "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," by Agatha Christie. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Paper Covers, 3 vols. .. .. per vol. 5 6

7786-7789 "The Old Bridge," by William J. Locke. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Paper Covers, 4 vols. .. .. per vol. 6 6

JUVENILE—

8083-8085 "The Lilac Fairy Book," by Andrew Lang. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 3 vols. .. .. per vol. 9 0

PHILOSOPHY—

7841-7844 Five Dialogues of Plato, by A. D. Lindsay, M.A. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Paper Covers, 4 vols. .. .. per vol. 6 0

EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the September Numbers)

Progress.—Smuggling: Ancient and Modern—How to concentrate, and what concentration implies—The Book that runs the Railways—Irreverent Radios—A Night Attack—How I Founded the Boy Scouts—The Swan Voyage—Solution to last month's Crossword Puzzle—Our Prize Competitions—Advertisements—"By a way that they knew not"—Obituary (Dr. Charles Chree)—Romance of the Drum-Major—Indian Titles, and what they mean—Carpet Mender in the House—A page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page—Fiction: Gold-mounted Guns. Supplements: Chess—Home Occupations (Picture framing)—Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—The Wider World—On some tendencies in Persian Poetry—Epitaphs—An unknown Martyr—Shakespeare did not dine out—Tolstoy as I knew him—A Hunter of Antique Treasure—On being well read—Shower at dawn (poem). Supplements: Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—The Jolly Red Squirrel—The Story of Aircraft No. 4. Building of an Airship—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Hercules; Tales from old Mythology—Prize Competitions—Poor Caractacus—The Cat and the Rabbit. Supplements: Comrades—Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—Gustav Holst—Tuners' Column—The Conventionality of Opera—Special Notice—Music in Preparatory Schools—Famous Victorians in a Toy Symphony—Dr. Malcolm Sargent. Supplements: Braille Music Reviews—Announcements—Inset—Music Coupons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—Lectures on Psychology (some mental mechanisms, etc.)—News in the Massage World—Massage Examination (June, 1928)—Annual General Meeting of the A.C.B.M.—Treatment by Electricity and Radiation—Diagnosis of a limp (continued from August Inset). Supplements: Massage Journal Inset. Diagnosis of a limp (continued from September Journal)—Official Notices—Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Moon Magazine.—Alison—Escape to Fairyland—Waiter's 2,800-Mile Run—They mean "Good-bye."—The first Marconigram.

Santa Lucia.—The Honourable Corpse—'Umble Pie—Stephen Langton—The Romance of Nikko Cheyne (Book III. 4-7)—Notice (Correspondence Courses)—A Flying-man's bright idea—Thought for the month—How the Shark brought the News—The oldest Sweet in the World—The City of Roses—Advertisement (Have you missed anything?)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland)—Editorial Notes—A little about Magnetism—Solution to last month's Cross-word Puzzle—News Items—New Standard of length—The Poet's Corner—Colonial Notes—Favourite Quotations—Correspondence—Stageland—Advertisements and General Notices. Supplements: Literary: "Speeches that made History"—Music: "A Masterpiece that Failed," by T. W. Wilkinson—Coupons—"Britany," song-waltz, by Tolchard Evans (8580)—Three Sea Chanties, from The University Song Book (8587)—Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

ADVERTISEMENTS.

There is a vacancy for a **Woman Home Visitor** on the staff of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association for the Blind, 49, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1. Candidates, who should be between the ages of 25 and 45, should apply by letter to the Supervisor before October 10th, giving name and address, qualifications, previous experience, age and date when free, and enclosing copies of two recent testimonials. Experience of social work desirable. Commencing salary £2 10s. 0d. weekly.

Blind or Disabled requiring services of Gentleman as **Reader or Companion,** for consideration, apply Auxilium, 51 Cambridge Gardens, N.10.

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1928

NOVEMBER Vol. XII No. 143

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

MUSIC

The prices of the following pieces of music are subject to a reduction of three-quarters for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.
The minimum price is 6d. per copy.

		s.	d.
	ORGAN—		
8712	Toccata (for a " Double Organ "), pocket size	2	0
8713	Nocturne in F, by W. Faulkes, pocket size	2	0
8714	Marche de Fête, by Eugene Gigout, pocket size	2	0
8715	Prière, by J. Jongen, Op. 37, No. 3, pocket size	2	0
	PIANO—		
	Associated Board Examinations, 1929—Studies and Pieces—		
8716	Primary Division, Lists A, B, C, pocket size	2	0
8717	Elementary Division, Lists A, B, C, pocket size	3	0
8718	Lower Division, Lists A, and C, pocket size	3	0
8719	Higher Division, List B, pocket size	2	8
8720	Intermediate Grade, List C, pocket size	3	4
8721	Songs without Words by Mendelssohn (Klindworth Edition)—Book 1	6	0
8722	" " " " 2	5	8
8723	" " " " 3	6	0
8724	" " " " 4	7	0
8725	" " " " 5	5	4
8726	" " " " 6	5	8
8727	" " " " 7	5	4
8728	" " " " 8 With Historical Notes	6	0
8729	Prelude in D, Op. 23, No. 4, by Rachmaninoff, pocket size	2	0
8730	Danse des Mirlitons (" Casse Noisette "), by Tschaikowsky (arr. by Dr. Ralph H. Bellairs), pocket size	2	0
8731	Stately Dance (" Rigoletto "), by Verdi (arr. by Dr. Ralph H. Bellairs) pocket size	2	0
	DANCE—		
8732	" Stay out of the South," Song Fox-Trot, by H. Dixon, pocket size	2	0
8733	" My Inspiration is You," Song Fox-Trot, by H. Nicholls, pocket size	2	0
8734	" Nebraska," Song Fox-Trot, by H. Revel and N. Sissle, pocket size	2	0
8735	" Ramona," Song-Waltz, by M. Wayne, pocket size	2	0
	SONGS—		
8736	" Send out Thy Light " (Sacred), C, Compass C to E′, by H. Baynton-Power, pocket size	2	0
8737	" Come raggio di sol," E minor, Compass C sharp to E′, by A. Caldara	2	0
8738	" Sapho's Farewell (Oh ! my lyre immortal), B flat minor, Compass C flat to G′, by Gounod	2	0
8739	" On with the motley," from " Pagliacci," D minor, Compass D to G′, by Leoncavallo	2	0
8740	" Death and the Maiden," E minor, Compass B, to F′ natural, by Schubert	2	0
8741	Song written at sea, A flat, Compass E to A′, by Stanford, pocket size	2	0

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

		s.	d.
	EDUCATIONAL—		
8440-8442	Simple French Stories, by Marc Ceppi. Grade 1, Intermediate size, Interlined, 3 vols. per vol.	6	3
	FICTION—		
7830-7834	" The Challenge to Sirius," by Sheila Kaye-Smith. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Cloth Boards, 5 vols. per vol.	8	6

MOON BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

		s.	d.
2751-2755	" The Splendid Spur," by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, 5 vols. (Limited Edition) per vol.	12	0

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XII.—NO. 143. NOVEMBER, 1928. PRICE 3D.
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THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE'S REPORT AND THE PRESS



"IN all our work we owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the Press throughout the British Empire. The Press is always interested in the blind." These words are taken from the Annual Report of the National Institute for the Blind which was fully reviewed in our last issue.

And again we have to place on record the generosity of the Press towards the blind. The Report, which was widely circulated, received the most flattering attention. London and provincial papers reviewed and commented on the activities of the Institute, special articles appeared in numerous journals, requests for photographs to illustrate "stories" written round the subject were received, and the Institute's editorial hives were kept humming.

Thus the Press has again helped the blind, and to the Press all thanks!

Its members—one and all—appear to have endorsed the opinion of the *Sphere*, which says:—

"There is no class of people which appeals so powerfully to the popular imagination as the blind, and this is not only natural but right. Of all our senses our eyes are the most precious."

Morning Post.—

". . . . It is only of recent years that there has been a comprehensive register compiled of blind persons, and on this register there are now 50,000 names. Actually, thanks to welfare work and the improved treatment of newly-born babies, the number of blind persons is decreasing, but the registration figures are growing as the system becomes more efficient.

"Every one of these 50,000 dwellers in the land of perpetual darkness is guided, trained, and helped from the time when, perhaps as a blind baby, he or she comes into one of the Institute's 'Sunshine' Homes.

"And for this gigantic task the National Institute and the local associations have made themselves responsible. . . . . "

Daily Telegraph.—

"Those who believe in progress may justly cite as an example the improvement in the lot of the blind. Not so long ago kindly people were content to give money to the blind poor, as if a mere sustenance were all that they needed. To-day it is widely recognised that the blind want intelligent help more than alms. They wish to play their part in the communal life, to earn their own living, to become acquainted with current affairs and with the literature and arts of their time—in short, to overcome their physical disability as far as possible, instead of accepting it as a fatal bar to their usefulness. We may see from the report, now published, of last year's work of the National Institute for the Blind, how our sightless brothers and sisters are now being assisted to make the best of themselves. The giving

of charitable doles is but a minor feature of the Institute's programme. It seeks, first, to make the blind happier by educating them, training them for special vocations such as massage, providing them with good books and music printed in Braille, encouraging them by means of new devices to take up ordinary secretarial work, and so on. Secondly, the Institute has tried with considerable success to co-ordinate the various agencies, both national and local, that have the welfare of the blind in view. The collection of funds has been simplified. More important still, now that the several societies co-operate with the Institute's After-Care Department, cases that call for inquiry can be dealt with quickly, and the deserving blind are sure of attention.

"The educational side of the Institute's work is noteworthy. It spends £12,000 a year in producing books and periodicals, to the number of half-a-million, in either Braille or Moon embossed type. The publishers show good sense in giving their blind readers not only the English classics, but also modern fiction, including 'thrillers,' poetry, and memoirs. The *Braille Mail* and the *Moon Newspaper* are not known to the general public, but these weeklies keep many blind people in touch with the world. It is interesting to learn that manuscript copies of text-books required by blind students are made by a band of patient volunteers. Tables and charts which we read from top to bottom have to be rearranged for the blind reader, whose fingers travel from side to side, and the task of embossing maps and diagrams must be harder still. The good people who make this a labour of love deserve a word of praise. The cumulative effect of all this educational work must change the whole outlook of our blind citizens for the better."

Public Opinion :—

"It is impossible to glance through the Annual Report of the National Institute for the Blind without being profoundly impressed and interested, for it is obvious that to the great task of alleviating one of the worst of afflictions there has been brought imagination, inventiveness and rare sympathy. The Institute aims at making the lives of the blind happy and realises that this is best done by making them independent. One of its main objects, therefore, is to train the blind in some useful employment, and it is found for them in the preparation of Braille literature and embossed music, the training of masseurs and masseuses and of craftsmen of every kind who can work by touch. Besides that practical training the Institute provides hostels, convalescent and holiday homes for the blind and has a widespread organisation for looking after their welfare all over the country. Every page of the report, indeed, goes to prove that this fine charity deserves the most generous support."

Financial News :—

"The annual report of the National Institute for the Blind is a remarkable document, and perhaps its most interesting feature is the wonderful series of illustrations. The keynote of the Institute's work is sounded on the cover by a charming photograph of *happy* blind babies on the seashore. The pictures are extraordinarily varied. Most original photographs are those of the 'hands' of the blind engaged in 'feeling' their way through life. Each finger of a blind person's hand is alive as no other hands are alive, and each finger *sees* the world and *sees* its work. Truly, the eyes of the blind are the 'fingers that see'."

The Schoolmaster :—

"He would be entirely lacking in sympathy and imagination who was not thrilled by the account of the work of the National Institute for the Blind given in its annual report for the year 1927-8. The illustrations alone,—portraying the activities of the blind from babyhood to old age, and the mechanical contrivances that help to bring light to their physical darkness and a sense of usefulness and, therefore, happiness to what would otherwise be a drear existence,—are eloquent of the many-sidedness of the work it carries on."

Nursing Mirror :—

"There is pleasant reading in the pages of the annual report for 1927 issued by the National Institute for the Blind, and its charming photographs add considerably to the interest of its contents. The breezy account of the year's doings should serve as excellent propaganda for spreading abroad a better knowledge of the Institute's activities and the needs of those helped by them. If it shows nothing else plainly, it does emphasise the fact that the blind are not just suitable objects of charity, or a backward or helpless people, but that 'they are progressive and independent, and that their world is rich in the romance of heroism, fair with the blossom of faith, and already proud in its annals of

achievement.' The day has long since gone by when the only help desired by a blind person was just a careless almsgiving. The National Institute for the Blind, first established in 1868, has long ago consolidated its position, and is endeavouring, with better success each year, to coalesce its own work with work for the blind in all parts of the British Empire, as well as to co-operate with every local agency engaged in that work throughout the United Kingdom."

Jewish World :—

"An intensely interesting, albeit, of course, a profoundly sad document. Any account of those who are bereft of the gift of sight is bound to be one inducing infinite sorrow and pity. But this report, in addition, shows the marvellous work that is done in this institution to mitigate for the blind the great affliction that has fallen upon them, or with which, as sometimes happens, they have been born. The aim of the Institute is to make its patients happy, and it succeeds wonderfully considering that they are deprived of one of the chief means of happiness. Whatever support can be given to the Institute, of which their Majesties the King and Queen are patrons, will I am sure be an act of real loving kindness."

Christian World :—

"The National Institute for the Blind has initiated an interesting policy, details of which are given in the annual report. It is a policy based on the principle of co-operation. Successful efforts have been made to bring the whole country into a scheme of unification. The institute is now linked up, for collecting purposes, with local agencies for the blind throughout the United Kingdom. The interest of the annual report lies in the fact that it shows how the blind are being fitted for useful service . . . . ."

Hampstead and Highgate Express :—

"The annual report of the National Institute for the Blind, is an intensely interesting publication. It is a review, as it were, of a world within a world, a survey of the life of those thousands of men, women, and children who are battling against darkness with a spirit of patient courage. Happiness is the keynote of these sightless people's lives. Thanks to the various voluntary bodies . . . . . whose work the Institute seeks to co-ordinate, the blind are taught many trades and trained for different professions and their leisure hours well provided for. Everything is done to minimise their handicap. . . . . ."

Slough, Eton and Windsor Observer :—

"The annual report of the National Institute for the Blind is a document. It is a picture of a world within a world, a picture of the community of the blind—people who are normal human beings yet who observe, think and act in darkness while the whole world around them lives and moves in light. The report, which has just been issued, is profusely illustrated and shows the remarkable work carried on by the National Institute."

Yorkshire Evening News :—

"Those who believe in progress may justly cite as an example the improvement in the lot of the blind. Not so long ago kindly people were content to give money to the blind poor as if a mere sustenance were all that they needed. To-day it is widely recognised that the blind want intelligent help more than alms. . . We may see from the Report of last year's work of the National Institute for the Blind how our sightless brothers and sisters are now being assisted to make the best of themselves. The giving of charitable doles is but a minor feature of the Institute's programme. . . . The educational side of the Institute's work is noteworthy. It spends £12,000 a year in producing books and periodicals in embossed type. The publishers show good sense in giving their blind readers not only the English classics, but also modern fiction including 'thrillers,' poetry and memoirs. . . . It is interesting to learn that manuscript copies of text books required by blind students are made by a band of volunteers. . . . The cumulative effect of all this educational work must change the whole outlook of our blind citizens for the better."

Croydon Advertiser :—

"The immense operations of the National Institute for the Blind are summarised in a commendably informative way in the annual report for 1927-28. This was a significant transitional period, in a progressive direction, and the report, with departmental activities described and illustrated, forms a record worthy of wide distribution and sympathetic study."

Sunday School Chronicle :—

"One of the most touching human documents issued each year is the report of the National Institute for the Blind. This year's report is specially interesting for the wonderful

story of its work in bringing brightness and joy to lives lived in perpetual physical darkness is illustrated by many excellent illustrations. To many—if not most of us—the fascinating glimpses the Report provides, of a struggle in which thousands of men, women and children are engaged at this moment against the baffling power of darkness, will be a new revelation of a spirit old as the human race—the spirit of patient courage."

Children's Newspaper :—

"Practise what you preach is a sound proverb, and no charity takes it more to heart than the National Institute for the Blind.

"It asks others to give employment to blind people, and itself employs 165. . . . It does not merely train blind people to find work. It publishes a great mass of books, magazines, and music for the blind, maintains three Sunshine Homes for blind babies, a college for blind girls, hostels for blind workers, and a convalescent home. It also markets the goods made by blind home-workers, and supplies games which the blind can play.

"It would be hard to say which of its activities is the most useful, but probably the Training College will appeal most to readers of the C.N. . . . Hardly less wonderful is the production of music that blind musicians can read, either for pleasure or to earn a living, as many do. Next comes the publication of weekly newspapers and books costing about £12,000 a year.

"There is surely one aspect of the Institute's work which must appeal to everyone and should win our support."

Nottingham Journal and Express :—

"The *Moon Newspaper*, a sterling example of the précis-writer's art, is reputed to be the smallest, in number of words, of all the world's newspapers. Published weekly by the Moon Society, it gives a résumé of the world's news, grouped under the names of countries, for the benefit of blind readers. . . .

"This is but one of the many interesting facts to be found in the annual report issued by the National Institute for the Blind—*a remarkable and intensely human document*."

Northern Echo :—

"The growth of Chorley Wood College, for girls with little or no sight, is a satisfactory sign of the widespread tendency nowadays to regard the blind as people who are worth a good education. . . . . In the past, the blind have been relegated to an inferior mental status because of lack of means to educate them. But now, inventions and research have overcome to a very large extent the difficulties of impregnating a blind person's brain with the primary seeds of mental processes. . . ."

Essex Chronicle :—

"There are few who have not a great sympathy and admiration for the thousands of unfortunate men, women, and children who are compelled to spend their days struggling in a world of darkness. All too often their gallant fight would be in vain but for the assistance they receive from such institutions as the National Institute for the Blind. . . ."

Kentish Independent :—

". . . Amongst the unique collection of photographs in the report there is one which all blessed with sight should keep by them as a constant reminder of the preciousness of that sense. It shows the hands of a blind baby examining some models and the hands of an old blind man, stretched out along a wooden rail. From birth to death, blindness is with the blind. It is not an illness which can be cured, a trouble which can be overcome; all through life, the hands of the blind are their only eyes, and their fingers are their only guide to find out and follow the road through darkness to light."

Kent Messenger :—

". . . The work of the National Institute is to promote the welfare of the blind from birth to old age, and to co-ordinate national and local work to the best advantage. How this is carried out is told in several interesting yet affecting chapters, while a wonderful series of photographs tell the story in even more vivid fashion—happy blind babies on the sea shore; blind stereotypers preparing embossed books and music; blind men and girls dancing on the lawns of a happy holiday home; blind heads of departments at work in their offices; the blind home worker busily knitting; the blind masseur at work in his own clinic. How these clever hands are taught to feel their way happily through life is a matter that will interest all charitably minded people. To them also the report will bring an appeal that none will let pass unheeded."

North Western Daily Mail :—

. . . . . There is, indeed, apparently no limit to the capabilities of the blind, who have

come to regard their blindness not as an affliction to suffer, but as a handicap to overcome."

Mexborough Times :—

". . . The Report illustrates some of the happiest features of life at the Sunshine Homes and at Chorley Wood College for Blind Girls. This work among the blind is, from whatever angle it is approached, intensely tragic, but it is also full of so much love and sympathy and patient courage that it is well worth the study as well as the support of people who are blessed with the great gift of sight."

Bournemouth Daily Echo :—

"Such a vast work calls for the fullest measure of financial aid."

Wembley News :—

". . . No institution is worthy of greater and more whole-hearted support than this Institution for the Blind."

CHESS FEDERATION AWARD

IT was reported at the annual council meeting of the British Chess Federation that the Worcester College for the Blind had been nominated for the 1928 School Shield, in recognition of their strikingly successful chess work during the past thirteen years. It was also announced that a return match by correspondence with Ireland had been arranged.

Mr. Brown announced that he had arranged for Mr. F. D. Yates, the British champion, to visit the College on November 19th, and to make a round of the County clubs on the following days, when he would give displays of simultaneous play against 30 opponents on each occasion.

When the trophies were distributed, Mr. Jones presented the Public Schools Shield and the Cobham Trophy to Messrs. A. Brace and C. G. Nock, the captains of the 1st and 2nd teams of Worcester College for the Blind, and Mr. Brown presented the Championship Bowl to Mr. F. W. Trent, the captain of Worcester City.

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL has agreed to give an annual capitation grant of £30 in respect of each blind worker at the Newcastle and Gateshead Workshops for the Adult Blind.

MISSION TO THE BLIND IN HEATHEN LANDS

WE are asked to call the attention of our readers to the Mission to the Blind in Heathen and Bible Lands, of which Mr. Robert Byers, who died two years ago, was the Director.

An interesting account is to hand of how Mr. Byers took up this noble work. Born in Australia, he was stricken with paralysis in his youth and was unable to move a muscle for 34 years. The disease attacked his jaw and, moreover, for 28 years he was blind. In the attempt to give him some interest in life, a lady friend asked him if he would care to join a Birthday Band, giving 1s. on his birthday towards work among the heathen. From that little seed grew a big endeavour. Mr. Byers asked his visitor to write to ten of his friends inviting them to join the Band. His friends told other friends, who again told others, and so the work grew. A leaflet telling of the distressful condition of blind children in China stirred his heart. He had, our informant tells us, "a vision of a little girl with arms outstretched and thousands behind her asking for help, which led him to ask his friends to give to a Birthday Band for work among the blind." The movement expanded so greatly that it was decided to organise the Mission to the Blind in Heathen and Bible Lands, with Mr. Byers as Director. He soon had the assistance of 20 or more voluntary workers. Every detail was directed from his bedside, and we are told that he inspired everyone who came in contact with him. The income which, in the first year, was £213 10s. 8d., amounted to £1,160 1s. 1d. in the seventh year, when there were 1,500 subscribers. The work grows from year to year, the workers co-operating with missionaries among the blind in India, China, Korea, Japan, Persia, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Nigeria, Algiers, Soudan, Brazil, Chile, the Philippine Islands, the Solomon and the Fiji Islands, etc. And yet, we learn, only the fringe of it is touched.

For seven years Mr. Byers carried on, until he died in March, 1926, after dictating letters and giving instructions almost to the end.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Norman Neill, whose sister was instrumental in founding the Mission, is one of the five Vice-Presidents who, with the Council, and a

number of other voluntary workers, is carrying on the good work.

It should be noted that the Honorary Representative for the United Kingdom is Miss W. J. Moncrieff, 8, Bedford Row, Worthing, Sussex.

THE BLIND IN ALGERIA

IN a recent number of the *Valentin Haüy Review* some statistics were given with regard to the blind in Algeria. We learn that out of a total population of 5,522,640 there are no less than 11,258 blind persons of whom 6,447 are men and 4,811 women. The proportion is 2,040 blind persons to every 1,000,000 inhabitants, or 1 blind person to every 490 inhabitants. "If," the *Review* goes on to say, "we remember that in England–a country which we like to take as a standard of comparison because there the 'blind' statistics are so carefully prepared—the proportion of blind persons is 1 to every 911 inhabitants, it will be realised how deplorable are the conditions in Algeria as well as in other countries in the North of Africa. It is sad to hear that the proportion of blinded miners is very high; according to the statistics given there are 209 cases of blindness among them, a proportion of 18 per cent. In the countries of Western Europe the proportion of blindness amongst miners is usually not more than 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. It will therefore be realised how important a part the School founded by the Valentin Haüy Association in Algeria must play, and how great is the task which our doctors and hygienists have to perform."

"THE truth is always the strongest argument." *Sophocles.*

A BLIND CYCLIST

THE photograph on this page shows Mr. W. Johnston of Frizinghall, Bradford, setting off with his son on a cycling tour during which he traversed some 600 miles. Mr. Johnston has been blind for 28 years, having been wounded in the Boer War. He is now 58 years of age and still takes part in all kinds of sport, notably swimming and cycling. He is described as being "very alert, ambitious and a great optimist." When he became blind he was re-educated by the National Institute for the Blind, and was later appointed an organiser for the Institute's Yorkshire Branch.



MR. W. JOHNSTON SETTING OFF ON A CYCLING TRIP.

A BLIND CENTENARIAN

WE have received some information concerning an interesting event which took place at the North London Homes for Aged Christian Blind, Crouch Hill, last August. Mrs. Hester Bierton, the oldest resident, celebrated the 100th anniversary of her birthday, and was the proud recipient of many letters. First and foremost, and very much valued, was a letter sent from the King and Queen from Balmoral. Mrs. Bierton was interviewed by Press representatives, and her photograph appeared in the *Daily Sketch*. She fully enjoyed the interviews and greatly appreciated her numerous presents, telegrams and letters. We understand that she appreciates wireless music "when it is not jazz."

"No chance is evil to him that is content. No man can make another man to be his slave unless he hath first enslaved himself."

Jeremy Taylor.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

A LAST word about Sir Beachcroft Towse's Wireless Appeal. One month from the day it was made, a gift arrived which brought the result to exactly £3,000; five days later the Earl of Dysart sent £100, which made the grand total, with various small sums which trickled in, £3,139 15s. 9d.!

Mr. Preece was the speaker at the West Smithfield and Lux in Tenebris Masonic Lodges, at Concerts given by the blind artistes at Hounslow, Finchley, and at Edmonton in connection with the Annual Fête and Sports organised by the "Helpers of the Blind." This took place this year on the Woolmer Road Sports Ground and was extended from a one day event to a Gala week, which was only one of a number of successful innovations. The Inter-Schools Sports, anticipated so keenly by the children, were the outstanding feature, the girls teams being particularly enthusiastic. The Victory Shield was won by Brettenham Road School from the former holders, Croyland Road, who nevertheless took the All Saints' Sick Club Shield. The Champion Girl and Boy, to whom were awarded the Middleton Cups, were both from the former School. Prizes were distributed by Mrs. W. F. Middleton, who was accompanied by that true friend of the Blind, her husband, Councillor Middleton. A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Middleton by the Woolmer Estate Allotment Association.

This year the elders had also a chance of winning prizes. The Woolmer Estate Allotment Association arranged a delightful show, which great assistance it is hoped the Association will continue to give wherever the event may be held. Not only was the show a financial help, but the members gave practical aid as stewards. Prizes were presented to the successful competitors by Mrs. Sanders, J.P., who in return was herself presented with the winning bunch of flowers.

There was a Cake Competition, arranged with the generous aid of Messrs. McDougall and judged by that keen supporter of the Fund, Mr. Byrne, who also presented cakes for the Weight Guessing Competition; and there was the great Push Ball Match, in which Lyons Nippies, Sparklets Girls and the Rego Clothing Company Girls all took part. For men the tug-of-war proved a great attraction. Sad to relate, the Housing Scheme Employees fell victims to Ba(t)chelors Buttons! The Aerial Derby must not be forgotten, and thanks are due to Lissen's British Oxygen for preparing the balloons, which this year travelled in a north-easterly direction, the winning balloon coming from the neighbourhood of Norwich, despatched by J. Sell. Cash prizes were offered by Messrs. Curnoch's Bakery.

As in previous years there was an exhibition of goods made by the blind, in the Marquee, kindly lent by the Gas Company. Madame Blinch was besieged by those interested in their past and future, with considerable benefit to the blind; and the Committee had secured the co-operation of showmen who provided a first-class fair. The preparation of the ground to receive this fair necessitated a good deal of manual labour which required members of the Committee literally to take off their coats, but this service was rendered as willingly as all the thought and time and ticket selling which had preceded it. It is impossible with so united a Committee, which includes no shirkers, to express thanks to any one member, but by their own wish mention must be made of Mr. Cook, the untiring Sports Secretary.

So the Gala week came to an end with a Drill and Fire Display by the Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Company's Fire Brigade, who carried out the Display in record time; the equipment was carted away by the kindness of Mr. C. Porter, and nothing remains but to congratulate and thank the hard-working Edmonton Committee of "Helpers of the Blind."

BLIND SWIMMERS

JOSEPH BANNISTER, aged 14, a pupil of the Leeds Blind and Deaf School, Blenheim Walk, and almost totally blind, has won the Award of Merit and the Silver Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society, and Martin Battle, another pupil, who is completely blind, has won the Society's bronze medal.

Both examinations, particularly that for the Award of Merit, are most searching.

The test for the Award of Merit is exhausting and requires no little stamina; the first test of all being a 600 yds. swim fully dressed, and, without leaving the water, the "rescue" of a "drowning person."

After this the candidate is required—still without rest—to undress himself in the water.

A deaf boy named James Duffy also won the silver medal.

THE GERMAN BLIND AND THEIR PROFESSIONS

FOR a long time the Union of Blind Academicians in Germany has been at pains to draw up statistics concerning the number of blind people in that country who are engaged in professional work. Such statistics are difficult to obtain because a certain number of university people who have become blind in later life are careful to conceal the fact from any but a very few people, and are sometimes known in their profession to be only short-sighted or weak-sighted, not blind. The figures compiled by the Union are therefore not complete, but they give a striking picture of the ability of the blind to work and to compete with others. The following facts concerning the German blind were ascertainable :—

10 Blind Graduates in Law in the Civil Service;
14 Practising Lawyers ;
16 Political Economists (including travelling lecturers and speakers amongst whom are 2 general insurance agents) ;
1 Collector of Lotteries ;
1 Advertising Agent ;
2 Doctors practising Massage ;
13 Clergymen ;
1 Headmaster ;
7 " Studienräte "
7 " Studienassessoren "
1 " Studienrefrendar "
(various grades of teachers at Municipal or Secondary schools) ;
11 Elementary School Teachers ;
13 Teachers at Blind Schools, of whom 2 are philologists and 2 attached to the State Blind Association in Steglitz, Berlin. Most of the above started their studies after they had become blind. The Institution at Marburg was the training school for many and the High School Library for the Blind in the same town provided many of the Braille books required for their studies.

The above is a translation of a short statistical account in the *Blindenbote*, which expresses the hope that it will have conveyed to its readers the capabilities of the educated blind, and have given the public confidence in their powers and encouragement to many blind people. It proves also that the capabilities of the German blind are not inferior to those of the blind abroad, although in other countries, and particularly in England and the United States, " much more confidence is placed in the powers of the blind and their upward path made easier than has been the case in Germany in the past."

THE LETTER "W" IN THE BRAILLE ALPHABET

M. E. GILBEAU, writing in a recent issue of the *Valentin Haüy Review*, says : " How often we have heard the question, in France, and—especially—abroad, ' Why does the letter W in Braille not occupy its usual place between the V and the X ? " The reason may be given in an anecdote, and this anecdote I had from the lips of Henry Hayter who, many years ago, was my English teacher. Here is the story.

" When, at the age of 16, Louis Braille devised his alphabet, he was a pupil at the Ecole de Paris where only French was taught. Now in French the W is not employed. In combining his four series of letters, the inventor of the system, who had little reading matter at his disposal, forgot the W. Among the schoolfellows who showed enthusiasm for the new system was the Englishman Hayter, who was anxious to adapt the system to his mother-tongue in which the W frequently occurs, and he asked his friend what he should do about it. The inventor thereupon assigned to this letter the only remaining place, *viz.*, the last in his four series. It has this place in the first edition of the system of Louis Braille published in 1829. Six years afterwards the School of Woluwe adopted the French system, including the W, although in the name of Woluwe the letter is twice represented. The unusual place of the W led the Americans, then, in 1868, to produce a different embossed alphabet, the New York Point, which prevailed in the United States for some 50 years. The English, on the contrary, thanks to a Commission consisting of blind people, adopted the French alphabet in its entirety, and if to-day there is an occasional slight divergency, this did not occur until 1907. The Germans followed the example of England after the International Congress of 1878 and their own special Congress of Berlin in the following year.

" ALL kind things must be done on their own account, and for their own sake, and without the least reference to any gratitude."

Charles Dickens.

COURT GRANGE FOR THE BLIND

THE babies could not see the flames that destroyed their beautiful home, and when they were rushed from the house and grounds on that Sunday afternoon it must all have seemed to be a bit of fun. Perhaps they were a bit "scary," but the older ones were soon made to feel at home at Chorley Wood College. Matron and nurses were with them, and even if it all seemed rather strange at first, routine was speedily established and games and lessons, meals and sleep, succeeded each other as before. The "littlest" ones were soon cared for at the Leamington and Southport Sunshine Homes.

There is cause for profound thanksgiving in the fact that the fire which destroyed Sunshine House, the Blind Babies' Home, Chorley Wood, on September 30, leaving only the new schoolroom intact, should have occurred in the daytime. At night the rescue work would have been infinitely more difficult, the babies infinitely more scared.



Photo by *Pope, Newton Abbot*

COURT GRANGE, ABBOTSKERSWELL.

Passers-by say that the lawns afforded a strange spectacle, scattered as they were that day with dolls, rocking-horses, babies' cots and other nursery paraphernalia. Many of the children's treasures were saved by the nurses and journeyed with them to Chorley Wood College.

The College was taxed to its utmost capacity, and when it was found that months must elapse before Sunshine House could be rebuilt, it was decided to look about for a temporary home. Accordingly, Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., Chairman of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind, sent a letter of appeal to the Press which, thanks to the generosity of the newspapers to which it was addressed, secured very wide publicity. Many people offered their houses as temporary homes for the babies, and widespread sympathy was aroused. A very generous offer was made by Mrs. Oppenheimer of her house at North Foreland, Broadstairs.

When the Rev. A. T. Dence offered the freehold of Court Grange, Abbotskerswell, South Devon, primarily "to supply the immediate need of a home for the blind babies," he said that the house should remain the property of the Institute, strictly for the blind, but in the future "for whatsoever branch of their work they consider most suitable." At a meeting of the Institute's Executive Council it was unanimously agreed to accept this munificent gift, and a telegram of acceptance was sent to the donor conveying to him the Council's warmest thanks on behalf of the blind of the country whom the Institute serves.

The National Institute thus enters into the possession of a beautiful mansion some 80 years of age, with fine lawns, gardens and kitchen garden, and a right-of-way over the road through the Park. The estate originally belonged to the Monks of Sherborne, and in the woods is a well from which, quaintly enough, the Monks of Buckfastleigh Abbey procure water which they sell for the benefit of their Abbey funds. A small tablet is to be placed in the house recording the use for which mansion and grounds have been given.

Preparations were immediately put in hand for the transformation of Court Grange into a 'Sunshine House," and on Thursday October 25th, the babies took possession of their new home.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

THE Glamorgan County Council's new Blind School at Bridgend, erected at a cost of £30,000, is nearing completion and will probably be opened in the new year.

* * *

GUILD FOR PROMOTION OF GARDENING AMONGST THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY BLIND (Myope)

North of England Horticultural Society's Show, Harrogate

AT the above Show which was held at Harrogate on the 5th, 6th and 7th of September, the following members of the Guild were awarded prizes for their exhibits as follows :—

Home for Blind Women, Brighton.
Two firsts and two seconds for Vegetables.

Mr. E. Carpenter, Kings Langley.
Four seconds for Flowers. Two seconds and one third for Vegetables.

Mr. F. Eyre, Rottingdean.
Two firsts and two seconds for Vegetables.

Mr. J. E. Taylor, Kings Lynn.
Two firsts for Flowers.

* * *

Buckinghamshire Association for the Blind

THE Buckinghamshire Association for the Blind show by their 16th Annual Report that progress in their work has been well maintained. There are 286 blind persons on the register, of whom 11 are under the age of 15 and 154 over 60, while 159 are classified as unemployable. Many others are in training under the Bucks. Education Committee. Grants were made to unemployable and distressed blind persons, and the income of 66 adults was brought up to 15s. weekly. Sales of work were held during the year, and an annual grant of £25 was received from the King Edward VII. Memorial Fund. The total sum expended in pensions and occasional grants in the South Bucks. district amounted to £122.

* * *

THE Report of the Northern Counties' Association for the Blind for the year ended 31st March, 1928, states that the Association now comprises 47 voluntary societies and 15 local authorities. In all parts of the area attention has been directed to the possibility of providing a standard minimum income for the unemployable blind. Steady progress has been made towards the unification of local collections. Areas in which this is now operative include Darlington, Doncaster, Gateshead, Hull and East Riding, Newcastle, Northumberland and Sunderland. In Northumberland the first year of direct administration of blind welfare by the local authority has been completed.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND, DECEMBER, 1928

THE next examination for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.19, will be held on Saturday, the 1st, and Monday, the 3rd December. Candidates must have reached the age of 16 on or before the date of the examination, must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years, and be intending to remain so resident. Applications should be made to the Principal on or before Saturday, the 17th November, and the forms, properly filled in and completed, returned to the College on or before Saturday, the 24th November, or the candidate's name will not be placed on the list.

OBITUARY

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. Thomas John Jennings, which occurred on September 30th, at his home, 3, St Mary's Terrace, Penzance.

Mr. Jennings lost his sight at an early age, and struggled bravely to overcome his handicap. He was, for a short time, home teacher to the blind of Penzance and district, but was obliged to relinquish the post owing to delicate health. He was a teacher of music and an organist, and took the keenest interest in everything connected with his great art. He will be long remembered for his cheery personality.

Mr. Jennings was 66 years of age. He leaves a widow to whom much sympathy is extended in her bereavement.

"When men are friends, there is no need of justice ; but when they are just, they still need friendship." *Aristotle.*

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

WINIFRED HOLT MATHER

By Edward E Allen

Director, Perkins Institute for the Blind, Watertown, Mass.; and Director of Studies for the Blind at Harvard University.

This Biography was originally written for the Campaign of the New England Committee for French Soldiers Blinded in Battle, March, 1924.



HEN Mrs. Winifred Holt Mather was a child, she was once taken to visit a school for the blind. "The incident made me ill," she writes, "and filled me with sorrow which has never left. I remember hating to eat for some time. Ever since that experience the sight of a blind person has filled me with an inexpressible desire to help."



Mrs. Winifred Holt Mather.

So when in Italy some years later, she and her sister noticed at a concert how eagerly a bunch of blind boys was absorbing the music, the seed which had so long been dormant suddenly sprouted in this thought: "How many vacant seats there often are at our concerts at home. Why not get the unused tickets for blind people?" This was the origin of the Misses Holt's ticket bureau in New York.

Upon returning to America, the young women invited all the blind of their city, whose addresses they could get, to call one day at the Holt residence. Crowds of them came. There these people not only registered a wish for tickets, but more particularly their need of occupation—the chance to work and earn. With two such practical sympathisers as the Holt sisters, the home of their patient brother, with whom they lived, soon became also the state centre of work for the adult blind and remained so for a year and a half.

There the New York Association for the Blind was organized in 1905, with Dr. Lyman Abbott as president, and Mrs. Edward Ringwood Hewitt as chairman. From there Miss Winifred Holt carried a Bill to Albany for a State census of the blind which was passed, but with insufficient funds to carry it out properly. Immediately the Holt house became a census bureau, with Miss Edith Holt as its director, working under the newly appointed Commissioners to Investigate the Condition of the Blind of the State of New York. Here also was organized the first lay committee for the prevention of blindness, appointed by the New York Association for the Blind. This Committee has since become national, and has the backing of the Rockefeller and Sage Foundations. It is enthusiastically endorsed by the National Information Bureau.

While Miss Edith Holt was directing her many workers from there, Miss Winifred studied, travelled, visited, gathered ideas and data, raised money and found teachers. Under the instruction of a blind teacher, she learned to read and write Braille herself, working with bound eyes until this difficult task was mastered. It may be said that the opening years of this century were ripe for bringing some measure of organized aid to our adult blind. True! but no one did more to help on this move-

ment than Winifred Holt did. Imagine her, a young society woman of New York City,—beautiful, vigorous, enthusiastic, eager and sincere,—one who had just discovered her mission! Few could resist her appeal. The story is told of a certain rich banker who, when warned by his daughter that Winifred Holt usually got what she asked for, uttered words to this effect: "Forewarned is forearmed. I guess I can withstand her attack." But he didn't, and when his daughter twittingly said, "I told you so," replied: "Oh, but Miss Holt is not like the others; she's different. And besides her cause is righteous. Of course I had to do the handsome thing."

Winifred Holt *is* different. Clearheaded, forceful, and having but one object in life, she pursued it, tactfully if possible, less tactfully if necessary. She won powerful friends who have stood by her with money and influence. but she has made foes also. Why not? All strong characters do. Doubtless she has made mistakes. Jacob Riis declared: "Roosevelt was right when he said that the only one who never makes mistakes is the one who never does anything."

Winifred Holt, having as an artist a keen eye for the beautiful, has as a promotor a capacity for publicity. Lesser souls dub this sort of thing vanity. The truth is, she is naturally shy and retiring, but has risen above this characteristic to cry out from the housetops for her cause. One President of the United States after another has helped her. Either in person, as did President Taft in laying the corner stone of Lighthouse No. 1, or by letter. She has travelled far and wide in behalf of her cause, and at considerable sacrifice of both health and fortune, and has even appeared before commissions abroad where she is regarded as an expert; in short, she has waked up the world to its duty in behalf of her chosen people.

These people are not only the adult blind, though one of them declared: "Heretofore we blind have walked on cobblestones, but now we walk on asphalt," but the children also. Things happen at her lighthouses; for they are at once centres of information on blindness and the blind, clinics of prevention and sometimes even of restoration of eyesight, continuation schools, places of recreation, employment bureaux, salesrooms—a dozen-in-one "hive of industry," if you please. Read the annual reports of the New York Association, or *Log of the Lighthouse*, and see how indefatigable and resourceful Winifred Holt has been. Indeed, she was from the first its inspiration and its motive power, and she remains so to this day; although from early in the war her personal energies were diverted to the, alas! very many blinded soldiers and sailors of the Allies.

Some of our uniformed civilians tried to keep her at home, intimating that our government would not allow a woman to interfere over there. Nevertheless, she went and, being on the ground, gave pioneer and effective aid and consolation. Backed as she was all along by large funds from America's Committe for Men Blinded in Battle she has lighted lighthouses in France, and, aided by friends and Governments, in Italy and Poland, noble and necessary life-preservers, every one of them.

Read her "A Beacon of the Blind," and "The Light Which Cannot Fail." You can better imagine what this, our Florence Nightingale of the blind, has done over there, and you will understand why these beneficent centres need to be kept lighted for years to come.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
	CLASSICS.	
Longinus (Trans. by A. O. Prickard).	On the Sublime	2
Sophocles (Trans. by Gilbert Murray).	Œdipus Rex	1
Tacitus (Oxford Trans.).	Germania and Agricola ..	3
	ENGLISH LITERATURE.	
Lethbridge, C.	English Historical Literature ..	8
Milton, J.	Areopagitica	1
Plowman, M.	Introduction to the Study of Blake ..	2
Sedgefield, W. J.	Anglo-Saxon Verse-Book	5
	ESSAYS AND BELLES LETTRES.	
Stevenson, Froude, and Hakluyt.	English Admirals	2
	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Gibbs, Philip.	The Day After To-morrow	3
	MODERN LANGUAGES.	
Michelet, J.	Les Croisades	9
	PHILOSOPHY.	
Grieve, C. M.	Albyn	1
Taylor, M. E. J.	Greek Philosophy	2
Waller, B. C.	Hibernia	1
	POETRY AND DRAMA.	
Golden Treasury (Additional Poems)	.. .. ..	1
	SCIENCE.	
Laird, J.	Our Minds and Their Bodies	2

"The power of knowledge, if I understand it, is to bear and forbear; to learn the path of duty, and to tread it." *Charles Dickens.*

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE BLIND

By W. E. COWEN



THE day has long since passed when the blind were considered more or less mentally defective. It is now realised that, with proper training, they can become, in spite of their handicap, useful citizens and of economic value to the State. At the same time, it is astonishing how many people still imagine that the blind are in some way mentally abnormal. For instance, I have heard such questions asked of a blind man's companion as "Does Mr. Blank take sugar in his tea?" or "Will Mr. Blank take a little more bread and butter?" as though the person named was totally incapable of answering for himself.

As another instance of the same attitude—I remember some years ago calling with my daughter upon the Mayor of Johannesburg. The commissionaire who conducted us to the Mayor's parlour turned to her, and in a stage whisper which could be heard a hundred yards away, said: "Is he blind?" "Yes," I promptly replied, "but not deaf!"

In considering the psychology of the Blind, it must be remembered how large a part environment plays in determining their mental condition. Comfortable homes, beautiful surroundings, cheerful companionships, unobtrusive help and sympathy are keenly felt and appreciated. Suitable work, too, is one of the great factors in producing happiness and contentment. A sighted individual who is idle is always discontented and disgruntled—it can readily be imagined how much greater must be the effect of idleness on the sightless.

Speaking as a blind man, I maintain that sightless people of average ability have certain advantages over the sighted. For instance, their power of concentration is generally greater, and it cannot be doubted that, with loss of sight, the other senses become more acute. Thus blind people are, as a rule, mentally alert and little escapes their notice. The so-called "sixth sense" of the blind is, in my opinion, non-existent, but they do possess, in a marked degree, the power of co-ordinating impressions received through the other senses.

In this connection it must be remembered that it is very necessary to distinguish between persons "born blind" and those who have lost their sight in later life. The former are, in one way at least, at a distinct disadvantage in that they have no memorized visual impressions with which to compare those gained through the other senses. On the other hand, in those who have once possessed sight, the power of visualisation is already developed and they must, of necessity, be able to form more correct impressions of their surroundings and of the people with whom they come in contact. I have asked many people "blind from birth" what impressions they have of colour, and in the majority of cases they have stated that they cannot realise what "colour" means. A few maintain that they have an impression of colour, but are unable to describe that impression. I have discussed the same subject with those who have lost their sight at an extremely early age, and they usually claim that they have retained the power of visualising colour. At the same time difference in colour can undoubtedly be distinguished by totally blind people, and whilst in Canada I heard of an interesting test intended to ascertain whether it can be detected by the sense of smell. In this test a blind girl was given eight sealed packets of wool and placed alone in a vault. She opened each packet, and correctly stated the colour of its contents.

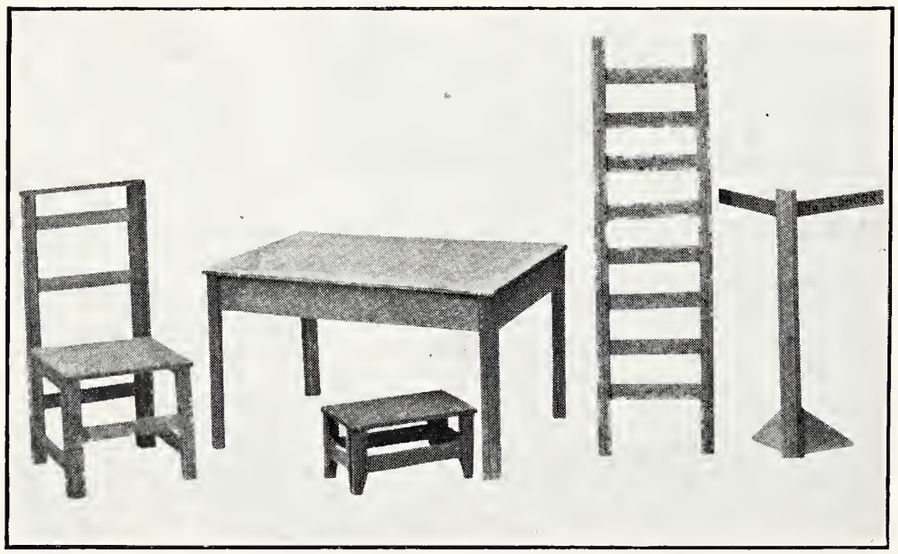
There is another important point with regard to the blind upon which I think many sighted people are mistaken. The fact of loss of sight does not, in essentials, alter character. The morose, pessimistic or intemperate nature will remain unchanged, and the happy, contented and abstemious man will continue so. Blind people are, however, of necessity, more introspective than the sighted, and so find it more difficult to rid themselves of unpleasant thoughts and emotions. They are undoubtedly somewhat prone to jealousy and suspicion—largely because they feel so keenly the differences around them, and, too, because they sometimes feel that these sighted people are taking unfair advantage of the limitations imposed upon them by their handicap. These are very real difficulties and stumbling blocks, but—blindness is physical. Courage, willpower and imagination are of the spirit and their light is not dimmed, but rather heightened by the bodily defect.

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

WOODEN TOY MAKING—I



IN previous articles the firm of Handicrafts, Ltd., Weedington Rd., Kentish Town, London, N.W. 5, has been referred to as suppliers of useful component parts and partly-finished materials for the amateur wood worker. It is perhaps advisable to make it clear that the writer has no connection whatever with this or any other firm, and no interest in furthering the sale of any firm's products. The sole object of giving names and addresses of firms (contrary to the usual practice) is to render every possible form of assistance to the sightless handicraft worker. In the case of the firm mentioned above there is a special reason, for they are the only suppliers of "corner moulding," moulding with grooves cut along its edges to enable pieces of wood of standard thickness to be joined together at right angles without the necessity of cutting special joints. In the ordinary way this moulding is used in the making of boxes and box-like articles such as wireless cabinets and palm stands, the corner moulding being extended downwards to form legs where these are required; but the writer finds, as the result of experiments, that it can be used also for toy and model making, excellent results being obtained with a minimum of skill and labour. The moulding and numerous other woodwork accessories are described in *Handicrafts Annual*, 1s. post free or through any bookseller. The moulding itself and the other materials used in the construction of the novelties described here, and also the tools, can be obtained either direct from Handicrafts, Ltd. or from shops in most towns.



Only three kinds of material will be needed for the simple toys about to be described, but the ingenious reader will not be long in discovering the interesting possibilities opened up by the introduction of this corner moulding which can be obtained in several sizes and to take various thicknesses of wood. That used by the writer was No. K.III., which takes wood three-sixteenths of an inch thick and costs 1½d. per foot. The second material is ordinary plywood, three-sixteenths of an inch thick, costing about 4½d. per square foot, and the third is three-sixteenths-inch by half-inch stripwood at ¾d. per foot. A tube of Croid glue and some thin nails with fairly large heads and about three-eighths of an inch in length complete the list of materials.

The tools required are: a Stripwork Cutting Board with adjustable gauge to enable any number of pieces of stripwood to be cut to a uniform length; a fine-toothed Tenon Saw; a Rule; a Marking Knife; a light Hammer; a Set Square; a fine Bradawl or steel point for making nail holes; a small iron Plane; a small pair of Pincers; and some fine Glasspaper which will be used over a wood block or special Glasspaper Block. Useful additions to the outfit comprise a wood Bench Vice, one or two G-Cramps, and a pair of Pliers with long flat jaws for pushing in nails.

Should it be desired to make a number of articles all exactly alike, Jigs, as described in a previous article on Strip Woodwork, can be constructed by the worker and used to facilitate the assembling of the parts. This assembling should be done last, all the parts having previously been prepared and finished exactly to size. The completed articles can either be left bare or stained and varnished or polished,

or painted or enamelled by a sighted friend.

A Toy Ladder.—This can be varied in length according to requirements, the method of construction being exactly the same whatever the length. Assuming that one twelve inches long is to be made, cut out on the cutting board two pieces of the corner moulding each twelve inches long to serve as the uprights. As only one groove of the moulding will be required in this model, the second groove can be planed away so that the moulding is practically flat on one side. This gives a neat appearance to the finished ladder. Now set the gauge of cutting board to three inches, and cut out seven pieces of the half-inch stripwood to this length for the rungs of ladder. These and also the uprights should be smoothed with glasspaper where necessary and the ladder is ready for assembling. Place the two uprights together so that the grooves are side by side and mark the positions of the rungs on both simultaneously. Make the first mark one inch from the end and the next and following marks one-and-a-half inches apart. As the rungs are half-an-inch wide this gives a space of one inch between each rung. To get both ends of the ladder alike the uprights could be eleven-and-a-half inches instead of twelve, or another rung can be added and the uprights made thirteen inches long.

Begin assembling near centre and work towards either end, first placing the ends of the rung in grooves of uprights and making two nail holes through the upright and partway into the rung. Remove the rung and give each of its ends a touch of glue, then replace it and drive in the nails, one at each end. A jig for assembling these ladders would consist of two oblong blocks of wood about half-an-inch thick, and of a size to fit exactly the space between two rungs. The blocks would be nailed or screwed square and true on the bench, with half-an-inch space between to accommodate the rung, and when one rung had been fixed into position the work would be moved along for the next rung. By using a jig of this kind marking is rendered unnecessary. A. G. K.

(*to be continued*)

A SUCCESSFUL exhibition and sale of work was held at the end of September in connection with Henshaw's Institution for the Blind. Over 6,000 people attended.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE marriage of Sir John Collie and Lady Arrol took place at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Frognal, N.W., on October 1st. Lady Arrol is Hon. Secretary of the Hepburn Starey Blind Aid Society, and many blind people were present in the Church.

* * *

A BRAILLE children's magazine called *Searchlight*, produced under the auspices of the New York Association for the Blind, has offered a prize of a 50-dollar liberty bond for the best original short story written by its readers. This magazine, says the *Sunday Times*, is distributed gratuitously among blind boys and girls throughout America.

* * *

BLIND ex-service men travelling on their business will, in future, be conveyed free of charge on the omnibuses operated by the London General Omnibus Company and the tramcars of the Metropolitan Electric, London United, and South Metropolitan Electric Tramways Companies, provided they are accompanied by an attendant who will pay the ordinary fare.

ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED.—Home Teacher, sighted, fully qualified, Coventry area. Apply with testimonials to Mrs. Staner, Thanet House, St. Patrick's Road, Coventry.

Home Teacher of the Blind wanted for country district. Apply by letter to Messrs. J. M'Kerrell Brown & Gray, C. A., 14 Rutland Square, Edinburgh. State age, experience, salary expected.

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Progress.—Night at a Japanese Inn—Bird migration from Africa—Sugar Factories—Permutations and Combinations—Legends of the Violet—When trains become tired—National Institute for the Blind; Annual report—Our Prize Competitions—Correspondence—Matters of the moment—Advertisements—Captain Cook—The Perfect Life (Poem)—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page—Fiction: Gold-mounted Guns (concluded)—The Ideal Wife—He couldn't be fooled. Supplements: Chess—Home Occupations (a pretty dress for a baby girl). Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

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The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—The Welfare of the Blind—Reality—Cross-Word Puzzle—News Items—The Poet's Corner—Reform in Local Government—Favourite Quotations—More Jokes from Scotland—Gardening Notes—Advertisements and General Notices—Harmonic Progression—Pinches of Snuff. Supplements: Literary: Speeches that made History—"A Pillar of the Old School." Music: "Some Famous School Songs," by A. B. Cooper—Coupons—"I've made up my mind," song Fox-Trot, by T. Evans (8633)—"Archie of the Royal Air Air Force," Song, by E. Longstaffe (8641).—Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

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THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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1928

DECEMBER

Vol. XII No. 144

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

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The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. XII.—NO. 144 DECEMBER, 1928. PRICE 3D.
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AN INTERESTING YEAR



THE year which ends this month has been full of interest to the blind and to those engaged in work on their behalf. We are not yet, perhaps, at a sufficient distance from occurrences to form a definite idea of their relative importance, but several facts emerge from the steady level of progress which may certainly be described as significant. One is the growing spirit of co-operation between all agencies for the blind; another is the scientific attitude displayed towards the employment of the blind; a third, the recognition of wireless as an important factor in the welfare of the blind; a fourth, the success of the various Home Industries Schemes; a fifth, the continued success of the schemes inaugurated by County and Borough Councils under the terms of the Blind Persons Act.

If these facts alone are considered, the attitude towards the problem of the blind to-day must certainly be described as one full of promise, and we have every hope that the New Year will see many interesting developments, especially along the lines mentioned.

The spirit of co-operation has been strengthened to a great degree by the Unification Scheme initiated by the National Institute for the Blind with the approval of the Ministry of Health. Every agreement made under this Scheme simply means that the two big national institutions, the National Institute and the National Library, are working in complete accord with the local agency concerned to give the blind throughout the country the full benefit of all services for the blind available. Each local agency is helping national work, and the national institutions are helping local work. This is entirely as it should be; moreover, the growth and progress of the County Associations have established a necessary and most valuable link between the Ministry of Health and the local municipal authorities on the one hand and the charitable institutions, whether local or national, on the other. The value of such co-ordination of effort is very great, and we suggest that it might be still further increased by a more frequent and regular interchange of data relative to the whole problem of the blind. In fact, we consider that the perfect control of national work is through a body thoroughly conversant with local work, and, *vice versa*, that the perfect control of local work is through a body thoroughly conversant with national work. We believe that, in many instances, people working for the blind locally are not fully aware, and accordingly do not take full advantage, of the facilities offered by the national institutions, while it is quite probable that a more thorough understanding, on the part of those governing national bodies, of specific local problems would enhance the value of the national services provided.

In the past, the blind, as workers, have been confined to various stereotyped handicrafts, such as basket, net and mat-making. The establishment of St. Dunstan's and the need

of finding occupations for men accustomed to an active mental and physical life, led to the discovery of more interesting and remunerative professions, such as massage and poultry farming, and additional handicrafts such as carpentry and shoe-making. This was an immense step forward, and a further step of equal if not more importance is the enquiry now being conducted on scientific lines by the National Institute for the Blind in conjunction with the National Institute of Industrial Psychology as to new sources of work for the blind. Attention is being directed towards suitable processes in factories employing sighted labour; the establishment of new, or the extension of present, industries for the blind; and the development of new industries on a sub-contracting basis by arrangement with commercial firms. Already successful "placements" of blind workers in big firms amongst sighted workers have been made, and the gradual collection and co-ordination of data in the directions mentioned should prove of permanent value to the blind in every walk of life and to those interested in their welfare.

We have frequently emphasised the importance of wireless to the blind, but we do not believe that the full significance of wireless as an educational factor in the blind world has yet been fully realized. We are unable to dwell upon this interesting subject now, but we simply ask our readers to compare the opportunities for happiness of a blind person of any age dependent for instruction and amusement on chance hearsay or a necessarily limited supply of Braille literature with those of a blind person in complete possession of all that wireless can give him—first-class music, excellent entertainment, criticisms on books and art and plays, news, thrilling accounts of sports, the speeches of world actors and of world thinkers. Without wireless, the blind man is a solitary, almost a stranger to the great drama of life; with wireless, he is one of the vast crowd of humanity, thinking with them, playing with them, smiling and sorrowing with them.

Compare, again, the blind resident in some secluded village of twenty years ago with the same man to-day. Then he was, of all the lonely helpless people in the world, perhaps the loneliest and the most helpless. Now, if he has a wireless set, he will find his mentality and imagination strengthened every day; and now, if he is working under one of the Home Workers' Schemes which cover the country, he will find always at hand expert assistance, a certain supply of raw material, a certain market and a certain wage. His progress may be slow, but it is sure, and both materially and spiritually, he is advancing.

The Blind Persons Act, as most Acts of Parliament, was not greeted as the brilliant dawn of a new era. But there is not the slightest doubt that it has thoroughly proved its status as one of the most important landmarks in the history of the blind of this country. Its success is largely due to the tact and care with which its various provisions have been put into force. Far from harming the charitable system—as some feared—it has strengthened and dignified it, and all concerned in its working—the Ministry of Health, the County and Borough Councils, the Associations and Institutions for the Blind—are to be congratulated on the manner in which their united efforts have made of an Act of Parliament an Act of Beneficence. THE EDITOR.

ANNUAL READING COMPETITION

THE fifth Annual Reading Competition was held at the Northern Branch of the National Library for the Blind in Manchester on Saturday, November 3rd, 1928, and sixty-one competitors from the North of England took part.

The 1st Prize in Class I. was awarded to Miss Jean Boag from Carlisle, who read an extract from Cunningham Graham's "Prayer Scratcher," and Gilbert Murray's translation of "Medea." The 2nd prize was won by Mrs. Minall of Blackburn. In Class II. the 1st, and 2nd prizes were awarded to Mr. A. V. Holt (Liverpool) and Mr. H. R. Williams (Wallasey) who read extracts from Macaulay's "Londonderry" and Bradby's poem "To a Thrush." The Juniors in Class III. read a passage from G. K. Chesterton's "On running after One's Hat" and Robert Browning's "Destruction of the Rats." The 1st prize in this Class was awarded to Francis O'Rourke, and the 2nd, to John Duckworth, both from Henshaw's Institution.

Sarah Glendinning from the Royal Victoria School, Newcastle, read delightfully a passage from Greek Nature Myths, "Why the face of the Moon is white" and Sir Walter Scott's "Hunting Song." She was closely followed by Wilfred Hickson (Henshaw's Institution) who won the 2nd prize.

The day was concluded with an entertainment for the competitors and their friends.

PERSONALITIES

IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND

CLUTHA MACKENZIE

By C. R. ALLEN



HE writer of this sketch approaches the subject with some diffidence. In the letter accompanying the data with which Mr. Mackenzie kindly supplied me, he admonished me to avoid that note which is so often manifest when the sighted journalist writes of what a blind man has done. Mr. Mackenzie has always insisted on being judged upon his merits as a man, and not as a blind man. In this sketch I cannot hope to do more than elaborate the notes which Mr. Mackenzie has made at my request. Perhaps I may be allowed to preface the story, as I have it from him, with two personal impressions which must be partial and brief. They are connected with two periods , the first a time when Wellington, in New Zealand, was by way of being a garrison town. Periodically one would hear the sound of a military band in the street denoting that another draft of troops was leaving for the Old Country. There was also the less regular, but none the less persistent, flux of disabled men, and among them came Clutha Mackenzie with word of the great work that was being done for blinded soldiers and sailors in England under the leadership of Sir Arthur Pearson. To meet Mr. Mackenzie at that time was to catch something of the spirit which pervaded St. Dunstan's in the first years of its inception. To adapt oneself to all the new conditions of life involved through the loss of sight called for an exercise of stamina as great as did soldiering itself. Mr. Mackenzie gave one the impression that he was meeting these new conditions in the spirit of the connoisseur. It was not the kind of life he would have chosen, but any kind of life can yield a certain satisfaction if one accepts the conditions as one accepts the rules of a game. There was something to be made of it, and that he has made something of it will surely be proven by a study of the appended details.

My second impression is connected with a visit I paid to him last year at his home in Auckland. His home is the Director's house at the Jubilee Institute for the Blind. Sufficient time had elapsed to judge whether or not the spirit of St. Dunstan's had worn thin. In the interval between my two encounters, Mr. Mackenzie had accomplished several things. He had become a husband and a father. He had sat in Parliament representing for three years what is notoriously one of the most difficult constituencies in New Zealand. His retirement was due to the growing power of the Labour interest in the City constituencies. He had also become the recognised sponsor for a new spirit in the relations between the blind of New Zealand and the public at large. He had also succeeded, so it seemed to me, in retaining the outlook of the connoisseur. He had made the best of the new conditions. He has wrought a change in the Jubilee Institute for the Blind of which I am able to speak through personal experience.

His children are now of an age when they are able to communicate to him a vicarious joy in the colours of the earth and the pageantry of life as it passes the pleasant spot where their lot is cast. Wordsworth's lines addressed to his sister are peculiarly applicable to the children of a man who has met blindness at a comparatively early age: "Oh yet a little while may I behold in thee what I was once."

Mr. Mackenzie makes no mention in his memorandum of "The Tale of a Trooper," an autobiography which he published during his stay in England. It is one of many war books, and was published, it seems, a little late to catch the full flood of popularity. It is a stirring story, and will be read with pleasure by those who find delight in actuality rather than fancy. It is only natural that a man built on so large a scale should find the routine of executive life under unusual circumstances a little exacting, and Mr. Mackenzie has provided himself with a means of grace in the shape of a farm which he has purchased in the Auckland district. Hither he repairs as often as his duties allow him. He makes journeys throughout the length of New Zealand, in order to keep in touch with members of the blind community, and I know that his visits to the various centres are always looked upon as a happy event.

Having said so much by way of preliminary, I must have recourse to the notes which he has kindly placed at my disposal. He was born in Valclutha in New Zealand, in 1895. His father, the Hon. Sir Thomas Mackenzie, G.C.M.G., was Prime Minister of New Zealand during the brief interregnum between the defeat of Sir Joseph Ward and the accession of the late Mr. Massey. Afterwards Sir Thomas became High Commissioner for New Zealand in London, a post which he held throughout the war. Clutha Mackenzie was educated at the Mornington School and the Otago Boys' High School, and at the Waitaki Boys' High School, an institution which has come into prominence in recent years mainly owing to the energies of an imperially-minded headmaster. He had intended that scientific agriculture should be his life interest, and to this end he spent the three years between leaving school and the outbreak of war at stock and agricultural work on Government experimental farms and on sheep runs, a life in which he found infinite pleasure. On the outbreak of war he joined, as a trooper, his territorial unit, the Wellington Mounted Rifles, and in October, 1914, sailed with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force for Egypt. At Anzac, in 1915, during the Suvla Bay operations, he totally lost his sight from a shell explosion. He had not been many days in a New Zealand hospital at Walton-on-Thames, before Sir Arthur and Lady Pearson sought him out, and Sir Arthur spent a couple of hours every succeeding Saturday afternoon with him, though the wounded man was suffering from enteric fever. In December he went to St. Dunstan's, residing at Portland Place where Sir Arthur Pearson lived with a number of blind officers as his personal guests. This remained his home until February, 1919. During this period he was able to learn much of the provision for the welfare of the blind. In 1916 he started a journal for the New Zealand troops in Britain and the various theatres of war. *The Chronicles of the N.Z.E.F.* proved a great success, and kept him busy until the close of the war. On a number of occasions his work took him to the line in France, and to sea with the Grand Fleet, and in common with his fellow-soldiers he enjoyed that wonderful measure of hospitality extended by Britain to her overseas troops. He has often said that not only at St. Dunstan's, but indeed everywhere he went, nothing was left undone which might give him pleasure and assist to make life once more worth living.

In 1919 he was lucky enough to be the guest of the Admiralty in H.M.S. "New Zealand" for six months during her Empire cruise with Admiral Lord Jellicoe, visiting Egypt, India and Australia, and leaving her in New Zealand. In October of that year he married Doris Sawyer, of Windsor Forest, who had been associated with the work of St. Dunstan's. He entered Parliament in 1921 as Member for Auckland East, but was defeated in the following election.

His first work for the blind in New Zealand was connected with the settlement of the blinded soldiers there, in which he acted as the representative of St. Dunstan's. This settlement has been established on a satisfactory basis. As the development of providing for the welfare of the civilian blind had been somewhat neglected during the war period, he turned his attention to setting this to rights. There was only one institution for the blind in New Zealand, the Jubilee Institute, in Auckland, which had been carrying on excellent work since 1894. It had, however, no organisation nor finance to assist the blind community at large outside its walls, and after Sir Arthur Pearson's death in 1921, a small committee, with Mr. Mackenzie as its Chairman, set itself the task of establishing, as a tribute to his memory, a fund for the purpose of extending the Institute's work in this direction. People responded so generously that the fund has now a capital of £65,000, of which £20,000 was contributed by the Government. Assisted with this money, and helped by energetic representative committees throughout New Zealand, the Institute is now able to see its trainees through to final success, to erect homes, to secure businesses, to provide apparatus and material, and to give a helping hand in times of trouble. In 1922 Mr. Mackenzie was appointed a Trustee of the Institute. In 1923 the Government set up a Commission of Inquiry into the Welfare of the Blind, and Mr. Mackenzie was one of its members. Its findings have now largely been put into effect. Towards the close of 1926 he became a director of the Institute, which position he still occupies. In 1924 the Government introduced a pension for the blind of 20 years and over, subject to certain limitations of property, income, residence and so on. The amount ordinarily payable is 17/6 per week, but at the instance of Mr. Mackenzie, unique provision has been included which gives an increase of pension to those who are earning by the additional payment of a subsidy of 25 per cent.

on their earnings provided that receipts from earnings and pensions do not exceed £3 12 6 per week. During the past few years much of the Institute's work has been remodelled. Contributions of £17,000 from the public, plus a Government subsidy of £15,000, have enabled the trustees to replace all their old wooden buildings with fine modern brick structures. Trade organisation, music, library, school, physical training, recreation, etc., are on the lines generally approved in other countries. A complete registration of the blind of the Dominion has been established, showing now 633 blind persons—approximately 42 per 100,000 of the population. New Zealand is a small dominion far from the centre of things, but the trustees of the Institute, with Mr. Mackenzie as their director, are doing all in their power to see that no modern development is lacking to improve the well-being of the blind community.

THE CENTRAL SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND IN SWITZERLAND

A YOUNG Swiss lady is anxious to visit England in order to study the work being done in this country for the welfare of the blind. She is the daughter of Mr. Altherr, Secretary-General of the Central Society for the Welfare of the Blind in Switzerland (Union Centrale Suisse pour le Bien des Aveugles), and has already had some experience in work for the sightless.

Mr. Altherr wishes to hear of an institution for the blind in England where his daughter could stay as a paying guest, and from which she could conduct her studies. It is suggested that in return somebody who wishes to study the work being done for the Swiss blind might care to come to St. Gall.

Will those interested communicate with the Editor of the BEACON on this subject?

* * *

The Central Society for the Welfare of the Blind in Switzerland is in touch with the principal institutions for the blind throughout the country. It assists them in numerous ways, financial and otherwise. A full record is kept of blind persons attached to the various institutions and of those who live in their own homes. Details with regard to children who are blind, partially blind, or have weak sight, are communicated to the care committees of the respective cantons and, where necessary, the children are sent to institutions for the blind, the Society expressing its willingness to pay the fees of those who are unable to meet the expense. Instruction concerning the education of blind and seeing children is given to the parents of the newly-born, and in many cases parents are advised as to the most suitable occupations for their blind children to follow. The aged blind are cared for, and help is also obtained for blind Swiss people living abroad.

An important activity is the provision of Braille machines and other apparatus, and books and games for the blind, whilst copyists, through whose kind help the blind are provided with much of their literature, are supplied with writing-frames. The Society has secured for the blind the privilege of travelling at half price on the railways in Switzerland and abroad.

Propaganda forms an important item. Detailed accounts are supplied to the officials in cantons and towns, whilst articles and essays concerning the work are sent to religious and family newspapers and children's magazines. The sale of goods made by the blind at home and in the workshops is promoted by means of advertisement. Recently the Society undertook the task of endeavouring by means of circularisation to get into touch with all the deaf-blind in the country, and some have now been sent to institutions where they are being taught by special methods.

The Secretary-General, Mr. Altherr, is Director of an institution for the blind and a home for the aged blind in East Switzerland. Last year 66 blind people attended the institution, and of these 54 were residents. They are of varying ages, blind children learning the usual school subjects and adults the various occupations followed by the blind. There is a good library of embossed books, and music forms an important item in the curriculum. Delightful concerts are given, as well as other entertainments, and the social life is of the brightest.

IN the list of the Bar Final Examination issued at the end of October, there appeared, in the short First Class list, the name of Mr. Theodore H. Tylor, of the Inner Temple, M.A., D.C.L., Balliol College, Oxford.

OBITUARY

ALFRED GEORGE CHAPPLE

IT is with great regret that we have to record the death, at the age of 41, of Mr. Alfred George Chapple, who was for some time attached to the staff of the National Institute for the Blind. He was the eldest son of the Rev. George Porter and Ann Selina Chapple, and was educated at the Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood, and at Cambridge University, where he took his degree in history. For a few years Mr. Chapple coached at Cambridge, and in 1918 was appointed proof-reader of educational works at the National Institute for the Blind. His phenomenal memory and his wide range of reading were of the greatest value to the Students' Library, and, according to one of the Institute's volunteer helpers of the widest literary experience, he was the finest Shakespearean scholar he had ever met. Mr. Chapple possessed a complete Shakespeare in Braille which he has left to the Students' Library, with over 100 other volumes.

The Students' Library has sustained a heavy loss in the death of Mr. Chapple, whose sunny disposition and wonderful sense of humour were appreciated by all who met him.

He married, in May, 1925, Miss Fanny Elborne, of Melbourne, Cambs., to whom we offer our heartfelt sympathy in her sad bereavement.

* * *

JOHN HENRY SMEETON

A REMINDER of the inspiration of the work of Miss Lilias Trotter, founder of the Algiers Mission Band, whose death was recorded last month, is the story of the work which Mr. John Henry Smeeton carried out in Algiers, till within a few months of his death which occurred on October 22nd, at the age of 79, at his daughter's house at Croydon Road, Anerley.

After his retirement from a lifetime's service as an accountant in one of the great banks, and in religious work at Holmesdale Baptist Church, South Norwood, Mr. Smeeton went out in 1908 for a holiday trip to Algiers. Here he came into touch with Miss Trotter's work, and he was so much struck by it that, despite his advancing years, he decided to become one of the voluntary workers of the mission. In 1912 he went out to Algiers with his sister, and began to study Arabic. He was particularly touched by the condition of the blind beggars in the city, and he set himself to learn to teach them Arabic braille. He gathered around him a large company of these unfortunates, taught them, and where possible got them employment. Periodically the authorities would order those without work back to their villages, but many would drift back into Mr. Smeeton's care. It was a great joy to this gracious dignified old gentleman that just before he had finally to give up his work last May, the Government finally decided to care for all beggars in big compounds where they were provided with work as far as they were able to do it.

Mr. Smeeton used to refer to this work among the blind as 'his' little work. Much of his time was occupied in a voluminous correspondence with people all over the world in connection with his system of Bible reading, through which the whole of the Bible could be read in a year. He regularly wrote to four thousand people each year who joined with him in this labour of love.

He was one of the several workers who shared Miss Trotter's beautiful home at Dar Naama, just outside Algiers, and at this centre of Christian work he used to love to act as a benevolent and gracious chaplain.

ADDITIONS TO STUDENTS' LIBRARY

National Institute for the Blind

Author.	*Title.*	*Vols.*
	BIOGRAPHY.	
Luther Burbank.	Harvest of the Years	4
	ENGLISH LITERATURE.	
Rubenstein, H. F.	The English Drama	1
	HISTORY.	
Creighton, F.	The Age of Elizabeth	3
Mirsky, Prince.	History of Russia	1
	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Marsden, O. S.	The Power of Personality	1
	MODERN LANGUAGES.	
Hugo, Victor.	Selected Poems	1
Musset, A. de.	La Quenouille de Barberine ..	1
	PHILOSOPHY.	
Carr, H. Wildon.	The Freewill Problem	1
	SCIENCE.	
Brooks, L.	Regional Geography of the World ..	6
Singer, C.	Religion and Science	1
Stewart, O.	Aeolus, or the Future of the Flying Machine	1
	THEOLOGY AND RELIGION.	
Inge, W. R.	Platonic Tradition in English Religious Thought	1
Oldham, J. H.	Christianity and the Race Problem	4

"SUNSHINE" BABIES IN DEVON



HE "Sunshine" babies are quite at home in their new Devonshire home of Court Grange, Abbotskerswell. First came the Assistant Matron and some of the staff. On the following day the furniture arrived, including several cots bearing signs of the fire which destroyed the Home at Chorley Wood. The babies, in charge of Matron and nurses, left Paddington by the Torbay express at noon on Thursday, October 25th. The journey was undertaken in a spirit of Great Adventure, and the Matron sends us a delightful account of all that happened on the way. She writes :—

"All the details of the journey formed an engrossing subject of conversation for days. What should be worn or not worn was a dinner-table topic, and shoes, hats, coats and gloves were tried on and, if approved, were put aside for the Great Day. They showed considerable interest in each other's clothes, but to judge from a rather superior expression on every face when they were dressed, we concluded that each felt he was the best dressed man.

"On the journey itself, the keynote was self-possession. Whether the removal from Sunshine House to Chorley Wood College on the day of the fire had created a 'Wanderlust' in them remains to be seen, but all the babies behaved like experienced travellers and as travellers who enjoy a journey. Miss Monk, her staff and pupils gave the babes a most wonderful send-off. Everybody was out on the lawn to see them go. The babes waved their hands, called out good-bye, and loved every moment of the baby-worship showered upon them. Although they had thoroughly enjoyed their stay at Chorley Wood College, there were no tears at parting, for their great adventure had started and they were on the way to Devon. In the motor-coach to Paddington they sang songs and chattered, wondered about dinner and tea, but were quite certain they would be fed somehow.

"At Paddington they were very much be-photographed, as also at Chorley Wood, but then photographers are taken as part of the day's fun. Getting into the railway carriage was another stage in the day's interest. Blinds were pulled down and up—and down —seats were climbed over, and our cat burglar —we have a cat burglar with the face of a Botticelli angel—was persuaded that the luggage rack was not a cupboard, his favourite hiding-place. At 12 o'clock, as the train moved out of the station, all the babes were put into their jaeger sleeping-bags, and by 12.15 they were all asleep. At 1.30 they had refreshments consisting of biscuits and milk chocolate and a cup of hot milk each, the latter very kindly supplied by the train staff. At 2.30 faces were cold-creamed, hair combed, hats and gloves resumed, and 11 perfect little gentlemen sat up ready for detraining.

"The passengers in the train were most interested, and the train attendants collected 18s. and invested it in chocolates for the babies. Everybody remarked how wonderfully good they were and how well and happy they looked. At 3.15 they reached Exeter—still happy—still chattering—and were met by Mr. Taylor (Secretary of the South-Western Branch of the National Institute for the Blind), who had arranged their further transport. This was a large motor coach, and by the time Court Grange was reached the children had decided that they would not be engine drivers but would drive a 'big coach.' They were particularly pleased with the sensation of going down-hill. More Press photographers at Court Grange, but the babes gave them scant attention, for tea had been mentioned and meals always interest our babies. After tea, baths and bed. By 7.0 p.m. they were all fast asleep, not one of them the worse for the journey, and not one of them cross or fretful.

"The day after their arrival was a school holiday, and garden and house were thoroughly explored. There was some criticism of the garden as it did not contain bluebells, but after an explanation of the seasons this was forgiven. On the south side of the house there is a lovely terrace on which they lie on their stretcher-beds from 12.30 to 2.0 p.m. every day, simply bathed in sunshine. The sun is so warm here that now in November they are still having meals out of doors on most days. To our relief the children are most enthusiastic over everything in the house and garden. One child has expressed a liking for 'every little bit of it,' and another is so enamoured that he is going to buy a Devonshire Matron!

"On November 16th, four of our babies who had found a temporary home at Sunshine House, Leamington, returned to us. A great gale was raging, but the babes, each with a woollen toy tied on to their coats, were quite unperturbed. On the 20th (which coincided with a visit from the Secretary-General) the remaining four babies returned from Southport. There was a tremendous 'pow-wow' between the nineteen babies. The eleven Oldest Inhabitants insisted on showing the newcomers 'Devonshire,' as comprised in the playroom." (The twentieth baby has now been admitted; she joins her elder brother, who has been resident at Sunshine House for over three years.)

"To-day has been the first complete day with our family all together under one roof, and it has been a very happy one. To listen to them at school and at play, to see them all so happy together, to have nineteen babies to worship, makes it possible—if we refrain from looking out of the windows on to, surely, some of the most beautiful country in England—to imagine we are back at Sunshine House, Chorley Wood, and that the fire of seven weeks ago was an ugly nightmare."

We must not forget to record the children's joy at finding Jock, their Airedale terrier, at Court Grange. He received them with every indication of joy, but dealt gently with them all the time.

The coming of the blind babies to Abbotskerswell has created much interest in the neighbourhood, and their reception has been of the warmest. On their arrival they were greeted by the following telegram sent by Mrs. Dence: "God bless with peace and joy *our* blind babies and those who tend them."

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

UP to the 12th November, 1928, 1,328 sets and 1,631 pairs of headphones have been distributed among the blind, the Local Associations acting as distributing centres.

Readers should note that in future all wireless sets sent out by the National Institute for the Blind will remain the property of the Institute.

When sets are no longer required by their users they should be returned to the Institute.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

IN order to prevent disappointment and ensure the delivery of extra consignments of books from the National Library at Christmas time, readers are asked to notify the Secretary, Miss O. I. Prince, 35, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1., that extra books will be needed, as early as possible in the month of December. Many were disappointed in 1927 as, although by strenuous efforts the double supplies asked for were all despatched from Westminster before December 21st, consignments were held up at the Post Office and not delivered at their various destinations until after the holidays, owing to the enormous extra pressure of Christmas work at the Post Office.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

A NEW method of Education has been introduced by the International Educational Society which has been formed with the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, F.R.S., as President. This is the production of lectures and courses of lectures in the form of Gramophone Records. These are made by great authorities, in person, on their own subjects and reproduce not only the voice but the personality of the speaker.

The Society is in no sense a commercial undertaking, any profits which may accrue being devoted to the foundation of scholarships and the furtherance of education generally.

The lectures, lasting twenty minutes, are published on two double-sided records and include lectures by Sir Oliver Lodge on Physics, Mr. John Drinkwater on "The Speaking of Verse," Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson—"a Shakespearean Recital," General Baden-Powell on "Boy Scout Training," as well as a number of lectures on the Classics, History, Geography, Books and medical subjects. They are published for the Society by the Columbia Graphophone Company and can be obtained through Gramophone Dealers or direct from the Society at 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1. Price 4s. 6d. per record. Additional lecture-records are published each month.

THE "BLIND MEN" OF ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



I BELIEVE that three of the characters in the novels of R.L.S. are blind men; and it is with his treatment of them—and with the light that treatment throws on his own character—that I wish to deal. Let me first touch on the three incidents I have suggested.

Everyone knows Pew, the blinded ex-pirate in "Treasure Island." He is one of the most sinister figures in the whole of literature; and R.L.S. knows only too well how to get the surest effect out of him. The tap-tap of the blind man's stick along the frosty road at night comes as the first climax in a romance that is heavy with such thrills. In "Kidnapped" there is a companion figure of less consequence to the story; as the young hero is approaching the house of his villainous uncle, he meets a blind beggar who curses him and throws stones after him. Finally in "The Black Arrow" we have the episode of the "blind" leper, who follows the hero and heroine through the woods, ringing his ghastly bell. True—in this last case the creature is not really blind but only shamming blindness for a disguise; the dramatic effect is just the same; once again we have the sense of the sinister shape groping for its prey.

Now Stevenson was a charming writer and a humane soul. If he had met in the street one of his blinded fellow-men, there is no doubt he would have felt and shown towards him the greatest consideration and courtesy. Why then should he invariably portray blind men in his romances as revengeful, dark, and threatening shapes? Here is a paradox that calls for examination. Blind men are of course as human as anyone else; some of them are pleasant and some are ill-tempered or selfish. But a story-writer doesn't think about that. He merely lets his imagination go and—since imagination has no bounds—he allows himself to live in an unreal world; and in the unreal world he may shrink from that which, in *reality*, he pities and even loves.

A story-writer is, as it were, dreaming dreams that can be told to others. Dreams—it is now generally recognized—are vestiges of childish thoughts, that still live on in all of us; they may of course be often wrapped up in the dream-story, but it is in this way these old childish fears and wishes find easy release. We all know how in dreams we may do things that—as *adults*—we should never do, such as laughing at a funeral or shrinking with horror from a beloved friend. And in a sense a story-writer is only indulging in day-dreams of a useful variety.

What is the point of these last remarks? It is, that I believe Stevenson's charm lies greatly in his "boyish" attitude towards life; he was like a child and the world for him was full of exciting and romantic possibilities. He felt a child's fears and a child's hopes and loves; and in his stories he could express many of these fears and interests, that in real life he naturally outlived. I think then that the blind men of his novels are probably the expression of childish fears and horrors, that in the day-dream of story-writing he could again suffer himself to feel. I conceive that, as a child, Stevenson was peculiarly sensitive about pained and mutilated people—and this sensitiveness took the form, as with many children, of shrinking in dread from the very person they should have pitied.

There is evidence in the books themselves. In "Treasure Island" there are two main villains—Pew the blinded pirate, and Silver the one-legged man. Note that in Silver we have another instance of a mutilated man being turned into a sinister and dangerous figure. Pew and Silver are closely linked together; they were both disabled, we are told, in the same broadside—and it is after Pew's death that Silver comes to the centre of the picture. But the great point is that Stevenson makes young Jim Hawkins, the hero, constantly *dream* of the one-legged man; and in his dreams he is an object of terror. I feel sure that R.L.S. is here only recalling dreams of his own childhood and giving them to his boy-hero; the child Robert Louis was haunted by dreams of being chased by blind and one-legged men—and in his adult life what is more natural than that he should recall them and make use of the emotions for his delightful tales.

I should like to go further and suggest what this horror of " blind men " might be in such a precocious child as was R.L.S. Modern psychology gives us considerable help. Without probing too deep, I would throw out the suggestion that this infantile dread of " blind men " is in part a kind of inverted dread of the dark ; and do we not all remember how clearly—in " The child's Garden of Verses " —Stevenson records the small boy's dislike of dark stairs and shadowy bedrooms ? Half-consciously the child is saying to itself " That man is in the dark ; and I, if I am naughty, may also be put in the dark." Moreover I think that there are certain forms of a child's " naughtiness," that seem to us very harmless but probably mean more to the infant mind than we can remember. Such a " naughtiness " is the refusal to go to sleep when told to by his mother. Many children persist quite obstinately in trying to keep awake ; and the students of the Child Mind tell us that these children are often seized with a deep sense of guilt, when they hear the mother approaching *in the dark* to see whether they are yet asleep. I suggest that Stevenson, in fashioning the picture of Pew feeling his way down the road towards the inn, is perhaps drawing upon almost forgotten memories of such a childish incident, when his mother or nurse came creeping towards his bed to administer a reprimand for his disobedience. That the mother was prompted by the kindest motives would make no difference to the child, who may, as we pointed out above, have the most fantastic " dream-fears " even about those he loves the best. F. C.

PATROL OF BLIND SCOUTS

THE "Highland News" recently gave an account of doings in the Scout World. Incidentally it mentioned a newly-formed troop known as the St. John's Troop.

"This troop" says the paper, "is one of the most interesting in Inverness, because it has in its ranks a patrol of five blind boys from the local Institution. It has as its Chief that keen spirit on juvenile welfare, the Rev. C. F. Waudby, who is armed with the Chief Scout's standard book on Scouting in five volumes printed in Braille characters."

On November 20th, the children under 16 of the Swansea and South Wales Institution for the Blind were transferred to the Bridgend School.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

Home of Rest for the Blind.

THE Blackpool and Fylde Society for the Blind have opened a holiday home for blind persons, known as the " Sunbeam Home of Rest," at Hornby Road, Blackpool. The Home is situated in a residential neighbourhood within easy reach of the sea, and is fitted with central heating and electric light. Every consideration is given to the comfort of the visitors. There are separate recreation rooms for men and women, provided with gramophone, piano and a loud-speaker wireless set. Opportunities for enjoying the fresh air without going further afield are afforded by a long terrace at the back of the house.

There is accommodation for twenty visitors, and we are asked to say that as there are several vacancies it has been decided to open the Home to suitable blind persons residing in other parts of the country who would like to spend a short holiday in Blackpool. Enquiries should be addressed to the Matron at the above address.

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The Royal Midland Institution for the Blind.

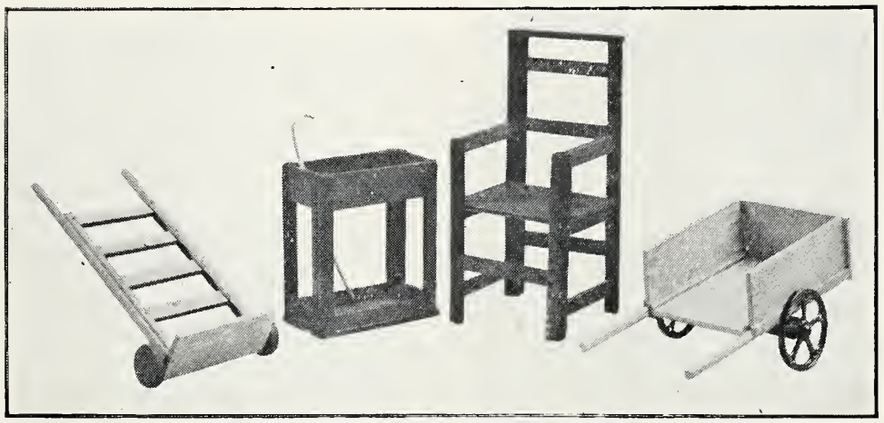
IN their Annual Report the Committee of this Institution state that the marked progress referred to last year has been more than maintained. The number of blind persons directly connected with the Institution is 169, the largest since its foundation. This number includes 83 pupils in hostels, 7 day pupils and 65 journeymen workers. They form but a small portion of the total number of blind persons aided by the Institution. Satisfactory reference was made to the work done by the workers and pupils and to a close touch kept with all old pupils. Ten home teachers and two supervisors have paid over 10,000 visits to the blind, and 1,171 lessons in Braille and Moon and in various branches of industrial work have been given.

The Shop and Institution sales during the year amounted to £23,608 the wages paid to the 65 blind workers in the workshops totalled £4,245, and payments in augmentation of these—partly from Ministry of Health grants and partly out of the Institution's charitable funds—totalled £2,498. The total of grants made was over £1,000 in excess of those for last year.

HOME OCCUPATIONS FOR THE BLIND

WOODEN TOY MAKING—II

HAVING got some idea of the scope afforded by the use of corner moulding, the reader need not be bound by precise specifications such as those given here, which are offered mainly as suggestions. Nor need he confine himself to just the three kinds of material mentioned. In fact the ultimate goal may well be the making of toys and models from ordinary wood, the worker being his own designer, and thus getting back to that healthy balance of the mental and manual achieved by the mediæval craftsmen. As in most things, it is the beginning that is most difficult, but this difficulty is minimised by the use of corner moulding and similar devices. Having once made a start, if there is creative energy, although perhaps it is latent and maybe long suppressed, it will break its bounds and express itself, possibly in unforeseen ways, to the mental and physical advantage of the creator.



Some Attractive Wooden Toys.

Many pieces of dolls' furniture can be constructed by using the corner moulding, but it would be unwise to attempt chairs and other of the more difficult pieces until skill has been developed by making simpler articles such as the dolls' stool and umbrella stand described below. Having accomplished these, the reader, if he is to succeed in simple woodwork at all, will have little need of further instruction.

A DOLLS' STOOL.—The top of this consists of a piece of plywood 4 ins. by 2½ ins. Four pieces of corner moulding 2 ins. long will be required for the legs, and four pieces of half-inch stripwood for the rails, the latter being cut so as to fit into the grooves in the pieces of corner moulding forming the legs, two rails for the sides and two for the ends. First the top is nailed to the four legs, the nails being about a quarter of an inch in from the corners, and the four legs being placed so that their sides are flush with the edges of the top. The rails are now glued and nailed into position with about three quartres of an inch space between the top of the rail and the underside of stool top. Finally the lower ends of legs are sloped off somewhat with a penknife, beginning the slope immediately below the rails.

A DOLLS' UMBRELLA STAND.—The following parts will be required: four pieces of corner moulding each five inches long, a piece of plywood for the bottom five inches by two and a half inches, four pieces of half-inch stripwood for top and bottom rails of sides, and four more for similar rails at ends. As in the dolls' stool, the rails are of a length just sufficient to enable their ends to fit into the grooves in the corners. Begin by nailing the four corner pieces to the bottom in the same way as the top of the stool was attached to the legs. Nextplacefour of the rails in position close to the bottom piece so as to form a sort of tray for holding the umbrellas, and lastly fit the other four rails close up to the top ends of the corner pieces. Instead of ½-in. stripwood for these top rails pieces of stripwood or plywood one inch wide can be used. This umbrella stand illustrates the principal on which tables can be made; indeed if turned upside down it becomes an occasional table itself.

A TOY SIGNPOST.—The post is a piece of corner moulding say six to eight inches in length, supported at the foot by two triangular pieces of plywood fitted into the grooves at right angles, these in turn being fixed to a plywood base if desired. The arms of the signpost are two pieces of ½-in. stripwood about three inches long, these being fixed into the grooves at top of post.

DOLLS' SWING.—This has two uprights of corner moulding with triangular supports at their bases, and a cross piece of ½-in. stripwood at the top. Into this cross piece are bored two small holes. The seat of the swing is a piece of ½-in. stripwood with two holes near its two ends. Two pieces of thin string are knotted at one end and the other ends passed through the holes in seat, the knot preventing the string from coming through the hole in each case. The swing is completed by attaching the other ends of strings to cross bar. This model would require a base board, to which the swing is attached by two nails passing through the base board into the ends of the uprights.

So far we have confined ourselves to the use of corner moulding, plywood, and ½-in. stripwood, but if it is desired to make wheeled toys we shall require either iron or wooden wheels with appropriate screws for fixing them, and also some ½-in. stripwood to the ends of which the wheels can be attached. Going back to the ladder described at the beginning, we can adapt this so as to make a model truck such as is used by railway porters.

A MODEL TRUCK.—First construct what is in effect a ladder with five rungs, but have the end rung at one end flush with ends of uprights, and at the other end leave one and a half inches of the uprights clear to form the handles of the truck. These handles are shaped with knife and glasspaper so that they are round, and the other end is dealt with as follows: A piece of ½-in. by ½-in. stripwood equal in length to the outside width of the truck is nailed across immediately underneath the end cross piece, and a piece of plywood one and a half inches wide and the same length as the previous piece is nailed to the end of the truck to serve as the end piece which prevents boxes, etc., from slipping off. The truck is completed by attaching wheels one inch in diameter to the ends of the ½-in. by ½-in. piece.

It is not suggested that toy making as here described is likely to be a profitable occupation, but it is quite possible that by means of corner moulding and similar helps other kinds of work might be undertaken which could be sold at a profit. A. G. K.

WE read that the teaching of Esperanto is compulsory in two Institutions for the Blind at Prague. An optional course has been given in the Klai Institute for the Blind in the same city.

NATIONAL PIANO-PLAYING COMPETITION

IN connection with the above Competition, organised by the *Daily Express*, the following paragraph from their issue of November 21st, will be of interest to our readers:—

"A young man who has been totally blind from birth was assisted to the concert platform at the Wigmore Hall yesterday to give a performance of the test pieces required by the adjudicators of the *Daily Express* Pianoforte-Playing Contest, who were judging the work of the competitors in Grade A of the Home Counties (South).

His name is Mr. S. Kerry, and he is twenty-three years of age. He has inherited strong musical gifts, which have been a source of inspiration to him. He is the organist of the Presbyterian Church, Wallington, and has the rare ability to play the piano brilliantly as well as the organ.

"The adjudicators openly expressed their admiration for Mr. Kerry's fine work. He was recalled with the small batch of possible winners and asked to play again. His performance was regarded entirely on its own merits, and no account was taken of the fact that the player could not see.

"He was awarded eighty-eight marks, just a few marks below those of the winner—a fair-haired girl of nineteen, Miss K. Denyer, of the Homestead, Wolseley Road, Farncombe, Surrey."

We are proud of the fact that, although Mr. Kerry was not listed as the winner, he was, nevertheless, such a close "runner-up" in so severe an ordeal.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE BLIND

READERS are reminded that the National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, W. 1, has a varied selection of Christmas cards for sale. Prices of cards with Braille greetings, 1d. to 1s.: cards with greetings in Moon type, 1d., 3d. and 6d.

EVERY year I live I am more convinced that the waste of life lies in the love we have not given, the powers we have not used, the selfish prudence that will risk nothing, and which, shirking pain, misses happiness as well.—*Mary Cholmondeley.*

THE BRITISH BLIND:

A REVOLUTION IN THOUGHT AND ACTION

By BEN PURSE



TO the making of this book Mr. Purse has brought to bear the practical knowledge acquired through some thirty-five years of careful and minute investigation. His arguments are carefully weighed. With absolute sympathy for those who share his handicap, he avoids all undue sentimentality. In stating their case, he bears in mind that there are other handicapped people in the world, and especially urges that blind people, in their demands on society, should never forget those who have equal claims on the sympathy of the public. His main contention is that, rather than monetary help, the blind should be given the work that they are able to perform as well as, or better than, those who can see, and, if their output (as it usually is of necessity) be lower than those who have their sight, then augmentation of their wages, sufficient to secure for them a decent standard of living, should be given. In other words, as he himself puts it, "All efforts to ameliorate the condition of the blind who are otherwise physically fit are best directed so as to secure permanent remunerative and congenial employment for them."

A correspondent, hearing of his intention to write this book, reminded him what a magnificent opportunity he had of advocating a minimum wage for all blind workers. The writer did not share this view, it being by no means his opinion that an equal amount of remuneration should be given to every worker regardless of the quantity or quality of his work. It is, he says, the duty of the blind worker to contribute unstintingly towards the reduction of the primary costs. At the same time, it is for the employer to buy in the best and most advantageous markets. Discussing the question of production, he puts in an urgent plea for co-operation among trading agencies. Whilst upholding the employment of the blind in special workshops, he urges the desirability of concentrating upon the pursuit of other than the regular occupations now practised in order to reduce trade losses, increase the margin of available work and encourage enterprise and initiative among those for whom the special establishments exist. The writer advocates a better graduated augmentation allowance. The difficulties of these matters are fully gone into, and should be read by all students of economics. There is also a very full account of pensions and disability allowances which should be read by those who are anxious to be *au fait* with this subject.

Mr. Purse examines, with the help of statistics, the improvements which have accrued to the blind through the Blind Persons Act, 1920, and declares that we have "registered a degree of progress in welfare work on behalf of the blind which is almost inconceivable having regard to the severity of the economic depression through which the country has been passing."

With regard to provision for the unemployable blind, although he advocates uniformity of treatment as far as possible, he urges that prevailing conditions must be taken into consideration. In providing for them it is necessary that the term "unemployable" should be very closely defined, and definite assurance should be received that it is impossible to make the beneficiary a wage-earner. He advocates allowances for unemployable blind persons sufficient for their maintenance at a percentage level above the sums generally administered by Poor Law authorities in respect of single persons. All his arguments point to one end: work wherever possible and payment accordingly.

The aim and object of all those working for the blind is to see them treated, as far as their handicap permits, as equal with the sighted, and, as far as possible, to eliminate sentimentality, as Dr. P. M. Evans puts it in an interesting preface. Dr. Evans also defends the retention of the voluntary principle, being assured that "a rigid insistence upon complete State or Municipal control will neither make for efficiency nor secure a greater measure of independence or economic freedom for the blind."

What we like about Mr. Purse's book is that, whilst he is hopeful and encouraging, he maintains his steady outlook and does not exaggerate the powers of the blind nor the demands which they should make on society. Also he avoids all mention of what we might

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term "show" cases, neither does he wish to rush the improvements which he is so anxious to see fulfilled. "The Kingdom of God cometh not by violence," and it is only by steady work and patient investigation that the improvements which the writer advocates can be effected. E. G.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

THE GREATER LONDON FUND has sustained a heavy loss by the death of the Hon. Sir Edward Thesiger, K.C.B., C.B., President of the Chelsea "Helpers of the Blind." Since the inauguration of the Circle he has been ever ready to lend practical help and was planning a concert to benefit the Fund when stricken by illness.

* * *

The work of the Greater London Fund has been kept well before the public, by one, two or even three events on every day of the month of October. Mr. Preece voiced the appeal to two Masonic Lodges, Brotherhoods in Islington and Hammersmith and at five concerts in such widely differing areas as Palmers Green, Acton and Sutton. He also gave his services as lecturer to the Lansdowne Social Club, Croydon.

As usual, the gospel of the blind was profitably preached twice a day on Sundays and on week-days to the Sisters of the Free Churches assembled for their weekly meeting. Blind artistes provided the entire programme at the Central Club Society, Ltd., Harefield, Neasden, Dartford (J. & E. Hall Ltd.), and Marshall Patent Mattress Co., Harringay.

On the 15th, Miss Audrey Lidington, L.R.A.M., organised a concert in St. Mary's Hall, Acton, with the help of other members of the G.L.F. Party; she herself, was responsible for the heavy task of ticket selling.

On the 12th, Commander R. A. J. Southby, R.N., M.P., and Mrs. Southby were present at a more than well attended concert at Sutton, when sighted artistes who kindly gave their services were Miss Kate Winter, Miss Phyllis Wallers, and the pupils of Miss Sheila Geere. By invitation of the Chairman of the Southgate Urban District Council (Councillor Pullinger, J.P.) the St. John's Hall, Palmers Green, on the 23rd, was filled to overflowing, even the host, the town clerk, Mrs. London, and other distinguished local residents being unable to find seats. A brilliant programme was provided, the artistes including Miss Mollie Seymour, Miss Nellie Norway, Miss Gladys Henman, Mr. Kenneth Ellis and the clever little dancers taught by Miss Eve Rowe. Mrs. London led the band of collectors, the donations and collection together amounting to over £40.

On the 30th, the late the Hon. Sir Edward Thesiger, K.C.B., invited members of the Chelsea "Helpers of the Blind" and their friends to a concert at the Town Hall. The illness which terminated fatally prevented him from attending, but he had taken an active part in the preparations, and his niece, Miss Rhoda Legge, contributed violin solos to the well-balanced programme. Others who gave their services were the Viscountess Dupplin, Mrs. George E. Studdy, Miss Edna Kingston, Miss Lilias McKinnon, Miss Ianthe Harley-Bacon and students of the Ginner-Mawer School of Dancing.

Wanstead H.O.B., more particularly Mrs. Alger and Mrs. Wolff, are to be congratulated upon once again securing the help of Mr. E. W. Bishop and his friends, who produced the play "Diplomacy" on the 24th, 25th and 26th, at the Grove Hall. That the programme was first-class will be readily understood when it is learned that the sum of £65 was handed over to the Fund. Sir Gerald du Maurier waived his fee of fifteen guineas as a donation.

The "Inner Vision" was shown at the Coronet Cinema, Wealdstone, for three days.

Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Curran-Gadsden lent the drawing-room of their beautiful house in Princes Gardens, formerly the house of the late Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, for a lecture entitled "The Lure of the Diamond" given by the distinguished traveller, Mrs. Charlotte Mansfield, F.R.G.S., who had interrupted a lecture-tour to give this help to the blind. As usual, Mrs. Mansfield held her audience spell-bound. Skilfully she ended her lecture with an understanding appeal for the blind, which was received with rapt attention. Among those present were Lady Mary Dundas, Lady Waechter, Lady Fulton, Lady Sharp, Lady Hepburn, Mrs. Scott-Nelson, Mrs. Wesley-Watson, and Mrs. T. H. Dey. Mr. R. Izard Coltman contributed the appropriate poem "Give." Afterwards, Mrs. Curran-Gadsden entertained the greater part of the audience to tea and all manner of good things, while she strove to swell the already large party she was bringing to the "Hallowe'en Revel"—the Revel strayed into the early hours of November and must therefore not be mentioned until next month.

DISTINCTION FOR A BLIND MUSICIAN

WE hasten to congratulate Mr. Thomas Marshall, L.R.A.M., on his election as an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

The "Associateship" is conferred, by the recommendation of the Committee of Management, on students who distinguish themselves in the musical profession after quitting the Academy. The election is made by the Directors, Associates, or Fellows of the Royal Academy, with the privilege of the use of the letters A.R.A.M.

Mr. Marshall's brilliant career as a student has been referred to before in these columns. He has carried off Academy prizes in many subjects, and is rapidly establishing himself as a concert pianist in London. He is yet another of the splendid band of highly-cultured blind musicians who are proving that Music is a subject in which they can excel, holding their own with their sighted professional brethren.

Such a consistent record of progress augurs well for this fine musician, and we trust that others will be encouraged by so splendid an example and record of achievement.

A BLIND PIANIST

AN interesting account is to hand of a recital given at Melbourne by a blind pianist who is well known in that country. Mr. George Findlay is the only blind musician in Australia who has obtained the degree of Bachelor of Music. He was born in 1905 in a little town near Bendigo, and has become known as a pianist, composer and teacher. He received his early musical training at the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, and in 1918 placed himself under Mr. F. W. Homewood of the University Conservatorium, and soon afterwards began to devote the whole of his time to music. His career has been marked by a series of successes giving every indication of a brilliant future.

His recital further established him in the public esteem, the programme including the "Appassionata" Sonata of Beethoven, followed by the Intermezzo in B Flat Minor, and Rhapsody in B Minor, by Brahms, and the "Symphonic Variations," by César Franck. As a composer Mr. Findlay was represented by two works for piano solo and various vocal items. Special interest attached to a group of four songs which he had composed, the poems on which three of them are based having been written by Miss Tilly Aston, the Melbourne blind authoress, whose biography appeared in the BEACON some time ago.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND.

MEMBERS of the Headquarters' Staff who have not yet joined the Hospital Scheme are reminded that for a trifling weekly or monthly contribution, expert advice and treatment can be obtained at almost any London Hospital without irritating enquiries or formalities. Many of the Staff can testify to the skilful treatment received and the courtesy and kindness shown to them. We have over 180 subscribers but there are still a few full of health and optimism who feel they have no use for doctors or hospitals. To such we appeal to express their gratitude by contributing a small sum weekly to help their fellow workers who are less fortunate. Full particulars gladly given by Mr. J. H. Lee, Supervisor of Branches, who is acting as Honorary Secretary to the Fund.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Blind or disabled requiring services of gentleman as reader or companion, for consideration, apply : Auxilium, 51, Cambridge Gardens, W. 10.

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH.

Appointment of Lady Home Teacher for the Blind.

Applications are invited for the position of Lady Home Teacher for the Blind at a salary of £156 per annum. Applicants must be fully sighted and preference will be given to applicants capable of reading Braille.

The selected applicant will be required to pass, within two years of appointment, the examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind.

Applications stating age, experience and qualifications and accompanied by not more than three recent testimonials must be enclosed in sealed envelopes marked "Appointment of Home Teacher," and should reach me not later than 10 a.m. on Thursday, 20th December, 1928.

F. J. SPARKS,
Town Clerk.

The Guildhall, Portsmouth,

Continued from page 2 of Cover.

BRAILLE BOOKS

The prices of the following publications are subject to a reduction of two-thirds for the blind resident in the British Isles and throughout the British Empire.

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	VOCATIONAL—			
8684	Handbook on the Welfare of the Blind in England and Wales. Grade 2, Large size, Interpointed, Paper Covers		4	6

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EMBOSSED MAGAZINES

(Contents of the November Numbers)

Progress.—The Romance of the Turnpike—Our Fruits and their Names—Sir Henry Wood—The Tablet—A Tour through Wessex—Herring Harvest—A Dog's S.O.S. Matters of the Moment—Our Prize Competitions—Advertisements—Guarding the Oyster Beds—The Fire-rangers of Ontario—York Minster—A Page of Nuggets—The Question Box—French Page—The Ideal Wife (concluded)—The Last Match. Supplements: Chess—Home Occupations (Combinations for a child of 1-2). Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 5s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Literary Journal.—Oliver Goldsmith—The Téméraire's Captain (A Trafalgar Memory)—Should Actors Die?—Sir Harry Lauder's Roamin's (from Coal-mine to Music-hall)—Algebra, the wife of Euclid—"The Lily Pool by Moonlight" (Poem)—In praise of the Cat—The Kingdom of the River—The Truth about Spoonerisms—Newspaper Leader Writing. Supplement: Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

School Magazine.—By the Editor—King Bluebeard's Blind Harper—The Story of Aircraft No. 6 (Some thrilling voyages by air)—Champion of the Wild—Tales from old Mythologies (Thor goes to Giantland)—The Why and the Wherefore—Told in Playtime—Prize Competitions—The last resting place of brave Captain Amundsen—How the United States started—Strange Sands. Supplements: Comrades—Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Musical Magazine.—The Middle-Classical Schubert—Tuner's Column—Correspondence—Obituary (Mr. D. M. Reid)—Notes and News Concerning the Blind—English Madrigals of the 16th Century—Special Notice—Sir John Reith—Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words" and Associated Board Music—Humour—Advertisement. Supplements: Braille Music Reviews—Announcements. Inset: Music Coupons. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

Massage Journal.—My impressions before, during and after training as a Masseur.—News in the Massage World—The use of light in combination with other remedies (to be concluded). Supplements. Massage Journal Inset: Paralysis in children due to Hæmorrhage into the Brain at Birth (concluded)—The Practical use and working of Medical Electrical Apparatus (No. 4 continued)—Preventive Irridiation of children against Rickets—Official Notices. Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum, post free.)

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WANTED.—Senior Home Teacher for the Blind (present number two). **Salary** £170 per annum to qualified teacher.—Apply stating Age, Experience and Qualifications (and enclosing **Copies** of three recent testimonials) to Mr. F. W. Hobby, Secretary, 25, Gray Street, Northampton, not later than the 17th of December, 1928.

Moon Magazine.—The Baby's Sock, by John Lucas, "Ghosts," by John McGillivray—Marrying the Sea—Silk from Cabbages—Where the Wills Are—A Concert in a Cavern—Rain and Shine Records—The Fire Fly's Touch—The Oriental Oath—White Gold—A Clever Dog. Subscription: Inland and abroad, 9s. 6d. per annum, post free.)

The Tribune (the Official Organ of the National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind of Great Britain and Ireland).—Editorial Notes—Some Idea of Perturbations—Pinches of Snuff—Solution to last month's Cross-word Puzzle—News Items—How a Mask became a Parson—International Notes—Another Camp Holiday (a contrast)—Favourite Quotations—Branch Notes—The Poet's Corner—Advertisements and General Notices. Supplements: Literary: Speeches that made History ("Speech against Catiline") to be concluded. Music: The Future of Music—Coupons—"In my little Dream House on the Hill"—"I know where I'm going." Announcements. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. per annum, post free.)

Santa Lucia.—A Home in the Wilderness—Struggle for a Queen's Heart in a Golden Casket—He put the Thames in Chains—Advertisement—Romance of Nikko Cheyne (Book III., 11-13)—Thought for the Month—What one man did for the World—Ninety and Nine—Before the Matchbox Came—National Library for the Blind—The Blind Man and the Bees—Baby Babylon—A Measure out of Joint—New Skulls for Old—Have you missed anything?

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The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. (Subscription: 7s. 6d. per annum, post free, abroad, 11s. 6d.)

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The Moon.—A newspaper issued every Wednesday in Moon type. It gives a concise summary of the news of the world. (Subscription: Inland and abroad, 8s. 8d. per annum, post free.)





New embossed maps of England and Wales, the one showing rivers and towns, the other rivers and mountains. Map, price 9d.; guide, 3/-, post free. (Subject to the usual discount.) Obtainable at the National — Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1 —

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